

Mrs Thatcher ready for crisis action after rebuff by EEC

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Withdrawal is ruled out

Israel Hornsby Norman
Mrs Thatcher today gave the Community a "last and Britain's huge" contribution to the EEC budget, but she was not afraid to initiate a crisis "when they put her demand at the Dublin for a £1,000m cut in Britain's net contribution to the Community budget. She declined to specify what action Britain would take, but ruled out withdrawal from the EEC.

Moderates could give their union leadership a rebuff and accept 20% pay offer Early miners' ballot returns point to rejection of strike

By Paul Roudledge and David Felton
The miners look set to deliver their union leaders a remarkable rebuff by rejecting the call to authorize strike action in the early ballot. Increases in excess of the National Coal Board's "final" 20 per cent pay offer.

still being packed last night to be taken to the count at the offices of the Electoral Reform Society in London. But the last time that Scotland produced a 65 per cent majority for militancy, in the vote on the annual conference decision. Are you therefore in favour of rejecting the board's offer and giving authority to the NEC to call industrial action including national strike action if necessary?

Up to 50,000 jobs could go in BSC cutbacks

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
The redundancies which could affect up to 50,000 steelworkers are being sought by the British Steel Corporation in a desperate attempt to become competitive. News of the scale of the cutbacks being sought was given to leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the industry's largest union yesterday by Mr Robert Scholey, the corporation's chief executive.

Labour left hardliners face 'fight to the finish' challenge

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter
Labour's war of words between rival factions over its future was dramatically intensified last night when Mr William Rodgers, a former Cabinet minister, issued a warning that if the "hard liners" of the left wanted a fight to the finish they could have one.

dispute ends as start

ry to settle the Shell dispute ended last night as the arbitrators of the Conciliation and Service (ACS) talking separately management and the workers' union.

Issue of equality holds up Rhodesia accord

From David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent
Objections to the British plans for a ceasefire in Rhodesia continued to be voiced by the Patriotic Front leadership, causing some doubt on the hopes of an agreement being reached last night.

Shah seeks US help to leave the country

New York, Nov. 30.—The deposed Shah of Iran said today that he still planned to leave the United States despite Mexico's decision not to allow him to return to his residence there.

Agreement by Nine on trial of terrorists

An agreement reached by European Community justice ministers provides for the trial of terrorism suspects in any EEC country regardless of where the crime was committed. The question of extradition is left to the discretion of individual countries. This brings Europe into line with an existing agreement between Britain and the Irish Republic at a time when convictions in the Republic of people belonging to the IRA have fallen sharply.

Meccano factory shuts down

The Liverpool factory which for more than 70 years has produced Meccano sets, and since 1932 has made Dinky toys, closed with the loss of 1,000 jobs. The names will not die, however. Production is to be transferred elsewhere.

Alert at Heathrow as DC10 lands

Emergency services stood by at Heathrow when a New Zealand Airways DC10 landed, after a warning that wing flaps were not working properly. The aircraft, of the same type as that which crashed in Antarctica earlier this week, landed safely.

Entry ban on three Indian children

A decision by the Home Office not to permit three Indian children deported in August to return to Britain has angered immigrant organizations. At the same time the Home Office decided not to deport a Bangladeshi girl, aged seven, who entered Britain illegally to live with her adoptive parents in Oxford.

'Whites only' repeal

The South African Government's decision to repeal the whites-only statutes in the building trade and car assembly industry will virtually abolish job reservation in the republic. Only driving of ambulances in Cape Town and ventilation of mines are still to be barred to blacks. The significance of the move is more psychological than practical.

Boy's death inquiry

A summary inquiry is to be held into the death of a boy aged four by child neglect in The Wirral in 1976. It will concern whether the first of two local inquiries was misled because it did not see a key memorandum.

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WORTH PARIS

HOME NEWS

Angry response to Home Office decision not to allow three deported Indian children to return

By Craig Seton

Immigrant organizations responded angrily yesterday to the news that the Home Office is not to permit three Indian children deported in August to return to Britain. In another case the Home Office has decided "quite exceptionally" not to deport Ayesha Kharun, aged seven, a Bangladeshi girl who entered the country illegally to live with her adoptive parents in Oxford.

Jayesh Patel, aged 16, and his brothers, Sanjesh, aged 13, and Dipesh, aged 10, have been in Bombay since August with their mother, Mrs Manju Patel, a British. Ravi cleaner from Gillingham, Kent and last night she was being urged to stay there until the Committee on United Kingdom Citizenship can appeal against the decision on her behalf.

Mrs Patel, who is divorced from her Indian husband, went back to India with the children in March because Mr Timothy Hume, Minister of State at the Home Office, decided they should make a proper application for entry clearance. The children had entered Britain in March without permission.

In a statement yesterday the Home Office said: "In the light of information received from the entry clearance officer the minister is not satisfied that Mr Patel has ever given up parental responsibility for his children or that Mrs Patel has ever had sole responsibility for them."

Neighbours and friends had raised £2,000 for Mrs Patel to return to India with her children in the hope that their applications would be treated quickly and enable them to return to England.

Mr Pratul Patel, of the Committee on United Kingdom Citizenship, said yesterday that he had spoken to Mrs Patel in Bombay, and she was baffled and terribly upset by the decision.

He said: "The political climate is so charged on immigrant matters at the moment that I think these children have been made political scapegoats. Christmas is so near and there should be some compassion for these children. I have never known an individual case which received so much sympathy and understanding from the British people."

Mrs Patel had been given custody of the children in an English court and their father had made a sworn statement in India saying that he had no desire to have the children. To follow his family to England, the Rev Russell Thomson, Vicar of Gillingham, said he was shocked and horrified by the decision. "I am not proud of being British. I am ashamed of what we have done to this woman and her children," he said.

Dr Sally Radford, of the United Kingdom Asian Women's Conference, said: "Humanity dictates that these boys should be with their mother. While there was distress in Gillingham, in Oxford there was great relief among friends, neighbours and teachers who campaigned for Ayesha Kharun to remain with her mother, Mr Ali Rojob, a restaurant owner, and his wife, who adopted her when her mother died and brought her from Bangladesh to live with them."

The Home Office statement said that Mr Patel had decided "quite exceptionally" and not without hesitation that Ayesha could stay, but gave a warning that people who wanted to bring children to this country in similar circumstances would still be expected to apply for entry clearance under the immigration rules.

Concession attacked: The latest concession by the Government, which will allow British women born abroad who have one United Kingdom-born parent to

apply to bring in their foreign husbands and fiancées, was attacked yesterday by the Equal Opportunities Commission and the National Council for Civil Liberties (Naccl). The Commission said that the concession did not go far enough and still meant that women wanting to bring in husbands would be dependent on the discretion of the Home Secretary. The National Council for Civil Liberties said that it made even clearer the racist nature of the Government's proposals.

The Government's intention, as stated in its White Paper on November 14, is to prevent marriage being used as a means of primary immigration. The paper said that a foreign man might be allowed to settle with his wife or fiancée in Britain if there was no reason to suppose that the purpose of the marriage was settlement, and if the woman was a United Kingdom citizen, born in the United Kingdom.

He would have no claim to settle here, but might be allowed to do so, the draft rules said. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, intends to announce on Tuesday that a man can apply for clearance even if his intended wife was not born here, as long as she has one United Kingdom-born parent.

The commission said yesterday: "We welcome any amelioration of the rules which extends more rights to women, but the problem is that the right of settlement is still discretionary. Nor did it see any need to treat women differently from men. If there was an abuse and one had to curtail children's rights to do so, then one should curtail the rights of men and women equally."

Vatican 'trial' evokes unprecedented act of ecumenical solidarity

British theologians defend Belgian priest

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The entire weight of academic theology in Britain has today been put behind the defence of a Belgian priest who is in trouble with the Vatican because of his views.

As an ecumenical act of solidarity it is without precedent. Steps have been taken to bring all this pressure to bear at the highest levels in Rome.

This protest at the treatment of the priest, Fr Edward Schillebeeckx, of Nijmegen University, is conveyed in a letter to the Editor of *The Times* which is published today. A copy, it is understood, is already on its way by special channels to the Pope.

All holders of academic chairs of theology, divinity, religious studies and related fields were invited to sign. A large number of readers and lecturers also indicated their support.

One or two professors who declined, did so, it is understood, because, while agreeing with the principle, they disagreed with the tactics of a public protest of this kind.

Fr Schillebeeckx, a Dominican who holds a chair of theology at Nijmegen, is under investigation by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the department of the Vatican which has power to check on, and if necessary to suspend, the work of Roman Catholic theologians.

The process of investigating his opinions has apparently been conducted in secret for the last three years, and he has been summoned to what virtually constitutes a trial before the Sacred Congregation's assessors: later this month.

He is regarded in theological circles as one of the most distinguished and respected theologians operating in any church.

A censure from the Sacred Congregation could jeopardize the circulation of his books, could prevent Roman Catholic theological students from hearing his lectures, and could obstruct his professional career.

Mr Rik Evans, who failed at the May election in his attempt to unseat the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr John Nott, in the neighbouring St Ives constituency, said yesterday: "I intend to raise this whole business at this meeting. It needs to be thrashed out so that what I consider a rather silly action does not do any more damage to the Labour movement."

Mr Brian Rusbridge, chief negotiator for the employers, said the 4 per cent difference would have to be financed "either from increases in the rates or a reduction in manpower."

The size of the deal would leave local authorities about £80m to find.

The offer was greeted warmly by the unions, whose chief negotiator, Mr Charles Donnet, said he was optimistic that a negotiated settlement could be reached.

Fr Schillebeeckx, in trouble because of his views, has been called upon to give a considered reply to nine detailed questions concerning his beliefs.

Fr Schillebeeckx has, for instance, been asked to state whether he believes in the objective reality of the Resurrection, and

opinions on the basic doctrine of Christianity, and he has been called upon to give a considered reply to nine detailed questions concerning his beliefs.

Mr Evans said: "I am firmly of the opinion that the opposition which we have voiced over the influence the left wing now has in the national party is a very accurate reflection of our supporters' views in this area."

Mr Desmond Timmins, chairman of the Falmouth town branch of the party, said last night: "I am obviously disgusted at what has happened. Arthur Jones writes from Birmingham: 'Mr Peter Tebbutt, the Labour candidate who lost the Falmouth and Camborne seat, and who lives at Kings Norton, Birmingham, with his wife and three children, said yesterday he had asked the NEC

to suspend opinions on such matters as the Virgin Birth. That has been a constituent of a formidable attack by the Sacred Congregation which always acts in the name of the Pope on certain strong currents in modern theological thinking."

Academic sources who have been following the arguments said that the meaning of such expressions as "objective reality" is likely to be crucial. It is asked, for instance, whether the concept of "objective reality" does itself have any objective reality; whether it refers to a scientific reality which is problematical to philosophers and scientists alike; and whether it is a concept known in traditional theology as St Thomas Aquinas, at the same time, problems in secular philosophy are likely to be raised.

The letter to *The Times* comes after protests overseas by other groups of theologians, but this is the first fully ecumenical and inter-denominational gesture of support. It includes Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Free Churchmen, and members of the Church of Scotland.

Letters, page 13

Nine reach agreement on terrorist trials

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

A common agreement on a trial of terrorists throughout European Community countries has been drawn up by justiciars of the member states and will be ratified in Dublin on Tuesday.

The agreement provides for the trial of terrorist suspects in any country regardless where in the Community offences were committed. It is a delicate question of extradition left to the discretion of a country.

The agreement comes at a time when the Provisional IRA has managed largely to neutralize the Irish Republic's anti-terrorist legislation. Offences Against the State Act on the charge of belonging to an illegal organization.

The IRA for years has refused to recognize the courts which meant that defendants would not plead and were subsequently convicted. But now more people accused of IRA membership enter a plea of not guilty because of increasingly severe sentences.

Because the police can no longer witness the Special Criminal Court finds itself with a choice between the conflicting words of the defence and a senior police officer. A result the number of convictions has fallen sharply.

The new agreement adapted from the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, a pact on extradition of terrorists, which was signed in 1977, and which had little chance of success because so many countries wrote in their reservations.

It was a Council of Europe agreement, covering countries and as far as it goes it has never been in the two years since it was drawn up.

The new deal described the "Belgian" agreement brings the Community countries into line with the principles enshrined in the Criminal Jurisdiction Act, 1976, which was passed simultaneously by the Westminster and Dublin Governments, providing a trial on either side of the border, regardless of where the crime was committed.

It has never been because of the difficulty of getting prosecution witnesses Government sources in Dublin believe the British Government has conceded for the time being extradition of terror from the republic is possible, and that the Act is now being tested. But the measure is unlikely ever to be a deterrent.

The Irish convention is that persons accused of political crimes cannot be extradited and the courts have interpreted IRA offences politically.

The Dublin Government is sensitive to accusations that it allows a relatively haven for terrorists. Mr. James Haughey, the Prime Minister, gone as far as he could in cooperating with British on security.

Correction
The loss to pensioners from changes in the social security law to bring national insurance into line with supplementary rates will be 40p a week. The error was stated in the 7th yesterday.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$1.50; Belgium \$1.40; Canada \$1.40; Denmark \$1.40; France \$1.40; Germany \$1.40; Greece \$1.40; Hong Kong \$1.40; India \$1.40; Italy \$1.40; Japan \$1.40; Korea \$1.40; Malaysia \$1.40; Mexico \$1.40; New Zealand \$1.40; Norway \$1.40; Portugal \$1.40; Singapore \$1.40; South Africa \$1.40; Spain \$1.40; Sweden \$1.40; Switzerland \$1.40; Taiwan \$1.40; Thailand \$1.40; Turkey \$1.40; United Kingdom \$1.40; USA \$1.40; West Germany \$1.40; Yugoslavia \$1.40.

13 pc offer to council workers

Local councils yesterday offered their manual workers, estimated at one million, a 13 per cent wage rise. But they said that the package would mean still higher increases in rates, cut in jobs, or a mixture of the two.

Unions agreed to negotiate on the deal, which comprising a 13 per cent wage rise, a 13 per cent bonus, and a 13 per cent bonus. The surprise offer came after the employers said that given the level of rate-support grant set by the Government, a 13 per cent wage rise was all they could afford. However, after an adjournment they increased the offer to 13 per cent, with the details to be negotiated later. A cut in hours was rejected.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, chief negotiator for the employers, said the 4 per cent difference would have to be financed "either from increases in the rates or a reduction in manpower."

The size of the deal would leave local authorities about £80m to find.

The offer was greeted warmly by the unions, whose chief negotiator, Mr Charles Donnet, said he was optimistic that a negotiated settlement could be reached.

Urgent talks on Labour clash

From Our Correspondent

Bodmin

The simmering controversy over a constituency Labour Party's protest over the failure of the left wing could boil over today.

The action of the Falmouth and Camborne divisional party in splitting from the national organization is to be raised at a meeting of the Cornwall county party.

Mr Rik Evans, who failed at the May election in his attempt to unseat the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr John Nott, in the neighbouring St Ives constituency, said yesterday: "I intend to raise this whole business at this meeting. It needs to be thrashed out so that what I consider a rather silly action does not do any more damage to the Labour movement."

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Mr Robert, vice-chairman of the county party, was the man who made public the decision of the Falmouth and Camborne divisional party to split from the national organization.

Mr Evans said: "I am firmly of the opinion that the opposition which we have voiced over the influence the left wing now has in the national party is a very accurate reflection of our supporters' views in this area."

Mr Desmond Timmins, chairman of the Falmouth town branch of the party, said last night: "I am obviously disgusted at what has happened. Arthur Jones writes from Birmingham: 'Mr Peter Tebbutt, the Labour candidate who lost the Falmouth and Camborne seat, and who lives at Kings Norton, Birmingham, with his wife and three children, said yesterday he had asked the NEC

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Letters, page 13



Mrs Manju Patel with her three sons (left to right), Jayesh, Sanjesh, and Dipesh.

Government drops plan for replacing car tax

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

Car licence tax will not be abolished and replaced by higher petrol duty, the Government has decided.

Strong objections by rural motorists and business users weighed heavily against the measures during a departmental review. Mr Norman Fowler, Minister for Transport, said after announcing the decision in a written answer in the Commons yesterday.

By shifting the £1,000m vehicle licence revenue on to petrol the price would have gone up 20p a gallon, adding more than £100m a year to the costs of the big users in industry.

Many rural users who depend particularly heavily on the car as their main form of transport would have been unduly

penalized. Mr Fowler said. Among bodies objecting to the change were the CBI, NFU, AA, and various tourist bodies.

Substantial staff economies would be made in any case as a result of the departmental review. Mr Fowler said. A reduction of 400 had already been made, and 1,000 more were in view, saving a total of £7m a year primarily by shifting more of the car-tax work to post offices, which would be more convenient for the public.

A campaign on licence evasion which some estimates put at £50m a year is to be launched in a few weeks in collaboration with the police, Mr Fowler said.

There would be a series of actions in towns and cities, possibly with the kind of advance notice that has been shown to be useful in the case of television licence evasion.

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Husband flaunted his transvestism, wife says

Mrs Margaret Chapman told a jury

St Albans Crown Court

how her husband, Frederick, flaunted his transvestism at her. She said that when he was a soldier he wore women's underwear beneath his uniform and that one day he found him in her wedding dress.

Mrs Chapman, aged 32, said she was terrified because her husband, who was 6 ft 3 in tall and 14 stones, had threatened to "cut her legs off" if she ever disclosed his perversion.

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ME-NEWS

Todd
Tensions
Against cuts
science

Mr Wright, Editor
Todd, president of the Society, gave a warning against the effects of cuts in support for research in the various fields of science and technology. He said that the future of the country depended on the quality of its scientific and technological resources. He said that the country was in a state of technological decline and that the government was not doing enough to support research. He said that the government was not doing enough to support research in the various fields of science and technology. He said that the future of the country depended on the quality of its scientific and technological resources.



Mr Michael Munford, joint runner-up for the 1979 Shepherd of the Year Award, with his dog Ross joining their charges during a demonstration in Hyde Park, London, yesterday. The winner was Mr Harry Hutchinson, of Marshaw Farm, near Abbotswood, Lancashire.

BBC rejects Heseltine charges of 'slap-happy journalism'

By Kenneth Götting

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has been taken to task by Mr Ian Trethowan, director-general of the BBC, for his widely publicized criticism last month of BBC television news coverage of the public expenditure cuts.

In reply to a reference by Mr Heseltine to "slap-happy selective journalism", Mr Trethowan says in a letter to the minister, released yesterday: "I think you grossly overstated your case and were highly selective in your own selection of facts."

Mr Trethowan goes on: "We accept without any reservation that it is important for the public to understand why the Government has embarked on its policies and not merely the manifestations of them. In your case you have had many opportunities of doing so in our output and I am glad that you have taken them (see, in *Today* in the past few days)."

"Our staff are as conscious as any sector of the community of the gravity of the problems facing the country; our journalists have a special responsibility for reporting policy and reaction to policy, and they do so with more care and objectivity than you gave them credit for in your somewhat intemperate speech at Bentley."

PARLIAMENT, November 30, 1979

Previous decision reversed: an inquiry into events after death of boy from neglect: missing report

House of Commons

An inquiry into events following the death of a four-year-old boy, Paul Brown, is to be ordered by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Sir George Young, Under Secretary for Health and Social Security, said he was considering what form the inquiry would take.

The case was raised in an adjournment debate by Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab) who outlined the events leading up to the death in hospital of Paul Brown and a local inquiry which followed. He said a subsequent inquiry recommended that Wirral Council would want to ask the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Patrick Jenkin) to institute a committee of inquiry under the Children Act 1975 into the question of whether the original inquiry had been misled.

Mr Field said that the inquiry had been misled by the Wirral Council and that the inquiry had been misled by the Wirral Council. He said that the inquiry had been misled by the Wirral Council and that the inquiry had been misled by the Wirral Council. He said that the inquiry had been misled by the Wirral Council and that the inquiry had been misled by the Wirral Council.

Babes in the bars Bill fails

The Licensing (Etc.) (Amendment) Bill which would have allowed for flexible opening hours of public houses and clubs between 10 am and 11.30 pm failed to make progress after an all-day debate. The Bill would also have permitted the licensing authorities to make orders allowing children under 14 to be admitted to specified bars in the evening.

Mr Nicholas Bonsor (Norwich, C), the sponsor of the Bill, said it dealt with the drinking of alcohol by children and young people. He said that the Bill would allow children under 14 to be admitted to specified bars in the evening.

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Consultations
on drink
and driving

Mr Anthony Beckett (Birmingham, Selby, Lab) asked whether the Minister of Transport would be bringing forward legislation to provide for random breath-testing for motorists; and what consultations he had had with motoring organizations on this matter.

Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, in a written reply, said: "I shall soon be publishing a consultation paper on drink and driving. I will wish to consider an up-to-date expression of views on this matter."

Mr Beckett said that he was concerned about the problem of drink and driving. He said that he was concerned about the problem of drink and driving. He said that he was concerned about the problem of drink and driving.

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nages issue could reopen bombers' case

men, jailed for life for 4 Birmingham public bombings, win damages against while in custody, it could pave for a challenge to their trial, the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Stephen Sedley, counsel of the six, said the legal action against the could be to secure damages against the state while in custody. He said that the legal action against the could be to secure damages against the state while in custody.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Goff and Sir George Baker reserved their judgment at the end of a hearing in which West Midlands and Lancashire police authorities appealed against a High Court judge's refusal to strike out the damages claims brought by the convicted bombers.

CA's
plaint
fensive'

h Clayton, complaint by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals about a new welfare body was inaccurate and offensive, Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, said yesterday.

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British Gas is to
seek approval
for gas terminal

From John Chatterton

British Gas announced yesterday that it is about to apply for outline planning consent for a coastal reception terminal for natural gas from the recently discovered Morecambe field off the Lancashire coast. The site is at Westfield Point, near Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

The application covers an area of about 185 acres near the village of Rampside. Within it 80 acres will be used initially for operational purposes. The remainder will contain underground pipe routes, to construction areas for contractors, space for landscaping and for an access road.

Mr Dennis Trevelyan, director-general of the British Gas Corporation, said yesterday in reply to a question about the effect of industrial action: "Of course, I entirely deplore the disruption of courts or anything that might look like victimization. You are asking the prison officer to be a trade unionist. It is not easy to ask that if he has a genuine grievance."

Mr Justice May, chairman of the inquiry, said that some prisoners would have to close over the next 10 years because they would become unmanageable on the 24-hour day, 365-day-year, basis on which they must be run.

The May committee's recommendation to double spending on prison buildings would cost £50m a year, less than 3 per cent of the law-and-order vote for England and Wales.

Mr Jack French, chairman of the National Farmers' Union, said that the Government's policy of subsidizing agriculture was "a disaster". He said that the Government's policy of subsidizing agriculture was "a disaster".

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Governors disappointed by
prison service report

By Peter Evans,

Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison governors would refuse to go on for the next 25 years with inadequate buildings and too many prisoners, Mr Brendan O'Brien, chairman of the governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said yesterday.

He held a conference at Central Hall, Westminster, called by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders to discuss the May-committee inquiry into the prison service that governors were relatively disappointed in its report. Some of his colleagues would "so a great deal stronger than that", he said.

Next week the Prison Officers' Association holds a conference when calls for industrial action are expected.

In reply to a parliamentary question on November 29, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home

Secretary, said that during the year there had been industrial action in 39 prisons.

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Government aid sought in
rejuvenating orchards

By Our Agriculture

Correspondent

Farmers yesterday abandoned appeals to the Government to re-take in the "lamb war" by banning imports of cheap French apples. They asked instead for aid to help them to rejuvenate old orchards and thus grow larger fruit.

A grower in West Sussex offered 20 Cox apples to children who brought him 20 cores of any variety, especially Golden Delicious, from a nearby orchard. Malcolm Withnall, a director of Frampton Nurseries, of Chichester, said: "Give the French the pip."

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Children of diplomats

made by Diplomatic Service children to join their parents in post overseas was £700,000 approximately.

It is not possible without incurring disproportionate cost to identify the separate cost of other journeys made by those made at public expense by children of Diplomatic Service staff travelling with their parents.

Old RAF aircraft

Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Under Secretary of Defence for the RAF, in a written reply said that at the end of 1979, 355 of the RAF's present effective aircraft strength would be over 20 years old, 158 of these would be over 25 years old and the oldest would be 32 years old.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a written reply, said: "In the last complete financial year, 1978-79, the cost to the public purse of educating children of members of the Diplomatic Service was: boarding school allowance, £1,790,371; day school allowance, £23,318; total, £1,813,689."

Of this sum, approximately £600,000 will have been recovered by the Ministry of Education in school allowance, which is taxable when paid to officers serving at home.

Mr Hurd, in another reply, said: "In the last complete financial year, 1978-79, the cost to the public purse of educating children of members of the Diplomatic Service was: boarding school allowance, £1,790,371; day school allowance, £23,318; total, £1,813,689."

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WEST EUROPE

The Pope ends visit to Turkey with Orthodox support for pursuing path of Christian unity

From Peter Nichols
Izmir, Nov 30

The Pope left for Rome tonight with the ecumenical success he had so eagerly sought at the end of a journey which he described as more important than any other he had undertaken.

The high point of his ecumenical exchanges came this morning when he went to the Eastern Orthodox Church of St George in Istanbul for the annual communion service in honour of St Andrew. The Pope followed the service from an improvised throne opposite the Patriarch's own ceremonial chair.

Both men made speeches and, amidst applause, exchanged gifts and kisses of peace.

The atmosphere was hardly that of a great event. The Pope was brought to the church doors by heavily armed Turkish soldiers. Uniformed soldiers with guns guarded the interior of the church as well as all the rather run-down surrounding area.

Several security guards in neat lounge suits, with machine guns over their arms sat close to the Pope.

The Patriarch of Constantinople's following is known to be small but the attendance in the little church on the Istanbul waterfront hardly did justice to what was claimed to be a meeting of great importance for the whole of humanity.

Apart from journalists and specially invited guests, there were little more than a hundred ordinary worshippers. Yet a Pope was present at an Orthodox eucharistic celebration for the first time since the

schism in the eleventh century and it was the feast day of a particularly revered patron of the Orthodox world.

After the service the Pope flew to Izmir and then went by helicopter to Ephesus, a city not only closely associated with St Paul but reputed to have been the place where Mary spent her last years.

The principal step of practical value which the Pope and Patriarch announced today was agreement to set up a joint commission to study theological differences between the two churches. This move, long planned, has taken time because of the difficulties of bringing together full representation of the whole world of Eastern Orthodoxy. That has now been achieved.

The commission, which is expected to hold its first meeting early next year, will consist of 25 to 30 representatives from Eastern Orthodoxy and the same number from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Pope has no illusions about the rapidly with which the communion can be restored between Christianity's two greatest forces. He hoped that by the end of the century this would have come about.

The paradox of the ceremony today is that the Patriarch of Constantinople, successor of the bishops of Byzantium, now has a very small local following. But he passed over a form of primacy of honour among the dozen or more autonomous churches making up Orthodoxy.

Notwithstanding the modesty of his present circumstances, and the control in which he is

kept by the Turkish Government, he is the one Orthodox interlocutor to whom the Pope can turn.

Patriarch Dimitrios I is a mild, grey-haired, bespectacled man, modest in manner despite the sumptuous vestments he wears, but he outdid the Pope in the dramatic nature of his statements.

They were working, he said this morning, for unity and for peace at a critical hour for the history of mankind, an hour in which the person and the spirit of evil, Lucifer, is tempting humanity beyond its strength.

He feared "a return to the epoch of religious fanaticism of wars of religion, of self-destruction of men and their faith, and always carried out in the name of God". This passage was seen to be largely addressed to the Muslim world.

The Pope insisted on the broader significance to be attached to his stay in Turkey. "This visit to the primary seat of the Orthodox Church clearly shows," he told the Patriarch, "the will of the whole Catholic Church to go ahead in the march towards the unity of all."

Mario Medione writes from Ephesus. During his pilgrimage to the house of the Virgin Mary near Ephesus, the Pope gave a formal pledge "at the feet of her who is our common mother" to pursue with all his energy the road leading to the perfect unity of all Christians. He was addressing a mixed crowd of foreigners in the course of an outdoor liturgy held just outside the shrine.

Although he landed by helicopter within the archaeological site at Ephesus, the Pope spent no time touring the impressive remains of the city which was dedicated to the pagan goddess Artemis.

Instead he was driven up the steep slopes of Mount Pion to the shrine that the Turks call "Meryemana", probably from the Greek for "Mother Mary".

Security was extremely tight. Gendarmes sharpshooters lined the road and were deployed on the slopes of the mountain, finger on the trigger, as much so that when one of the men tripped and fell, far from the Pope party, two or three shots were released causing a little anxiety.

Busloads of Americans serving with Nato in Izmir were brought in with their families, to watch the ceremony. A group of Poles, who are setting up a power plant in south-western Turkey, waved Polish flags and chanted "Solidarity" (Live a hundred years), as the Pope emerged after praying at the house of Mary.

The outdoor Roman Catholic service was conducted in Latin and Turkish. After his homily, the Pope greeted the congregation in Polish, English and Italian. He was almost mobbed when he moved near the altar to administer Holy Communion to some 30 or 60 people.

Earlier the Pope visited the archaeological museum of Selcuk, the modern village of Ephesus. Here the mayor presented him with copies of the Koran in English and in French.

Leading article, page 13.

Emergency plan to cut Spain's city smog

From Harry Dehnelius
Madrid, Nov 30

Spanish authorities have announced today an emergency plan for the country's three largest industrial cities, where air pollution has built up to dangerous levels.

The cities—Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao—have been suffering from an increasing concentration of both smoke and dust, which is causing several deaths a day.

Ecologists suspect the air in Valencia may also be dangerously polluted, but Valencia has no service to monitor the amount of noxious elements in the air.

Monitoring devices showed that smoke and sulphur dioxide were at levels above those authorised by law in several points in each of the three affected cities. The national radio network reported that Madrid hospitals had admitted in the past few days a greater number than usual of patients with respiratory complaints.

The "Phase I" Emergency Measures, which provincial governments are to put into effect in the polluted cities by tomorrow, include: to improve traffic, involve banning most traffic from heavily contaminated areas and restricting the use of central heating systems, both public and private, to between 12 noon and 10 pm.

In Madrid, the municipal authorities said they would back the measures with a drive against unauthorized parking in the city centre, and to discourage the use of private cars.

The authorities tried to pick down the importance of the pollution in public statements and said that improvement was expected with a change in the weather. However, the weather bureau offered no hope of any change for the next two days at least.

Ecologists said the tolerable level of contamination under Spanish law are about twice as high as in industrialised countries elsewhere in Europe.

Woman gets life term for terrorism

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Nov 30

Sweating and struggling furiously with her guards, Angelika Speitel, aged 27, one of West Germany's leading terrorists, was sentenced today to life imprisonment in a Düsseldorf court today.

She was found guilty of the murder of a young policeman and the attempted murder of another when she and two companions opened fire with dum-dum bullets at police surprised them at shooting practice in a wood near Düsseldorf last year.

A companion, Michael Knoll, was shot dead in the gunfight and a third, unidentified terrorist, was badly injured. Frau Speitel was badly injured.

"I don't want to hear that crap, you idiot swine," she shrieked as the judge read out the verdict, kicking and biting her guards as they tried to keep her still. She later did not make her appeal.

Not long before the verdict was read out, a hand-grenade was thrown by the defendant, which landed in the courtroom. It was defused.

The court found Frau Speitel to be a particularly active member of the Red Army Faction terrorist gang. The federal prosecutor's office is charged with gathering her alleged part in the murders of Dr Siegfried Buback, former federal prosecutor, Dr Jürgen Ponto, the Dresden Bank chief, and the kidnapping and murder of Dr Hannes Martin Schleyer, president of the industrialists' organisation.

The Basques wanted, and apparently got, a promise that a future referendum on the question of whether to incorporate the northern province of Navarra into the Basque country will be held simultaneously in Navarra and in the three provinces which form part of the Basque region—Alava, Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya.

Sardines dumped
Marseilles, Nov 30—French fishermen have dumped 350 tons of sardines back into the sea since the beginning of this week in protest against lack of government aid.

Ex-SS men 'suspected Jews were sent to die'

Cologne, Nov 30.—Two former SS officers said in court today they suspected that Dutch Jews deported to Poland were sent to die.

Wilhelm Harster, a former SS colonel and Wilhelm Zeph, a former SS captain, testified in the trial of Kurt Lischka, Herbert Hagen and Ernst Heinrichs, who are charged with the deportation of 73,000 Jews from occupied France to extermination camps in Poland.

The three former Gestapo (Nazi secret police) officials deny that they knew anything about the real fate awaiting their victims in Eastern Europe. They thought the French Jews were sent to labour camps, they claimed.

Harster, aged 75, now retired, and Zeph, aged 71, now working as a musician, were high-ranking Gestapo officials. Both served lengthy prison sentences for their parts in the wartime deportation of Jews from Holland.

The suspicion that Jews deported to occupied Poland were killed there intensified during their activities in the Netherlands. Both witnesses said they knew no details and did not want to know any, either.

Harster and Zeph, held similar positions in the

OVERSEAS

Iran to boycott debate at United Nations on American conflict

From Our Own Correspondent
Tehran, Nov 30

Iran's Foreign Minister announced today that he would not attend tomorrow's meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the American conflict in Iran.

Mr. Sadeq Oubaidi, who was appointed Foreign Minister two days ago, would refuse to attend the meeting. He had been given the Foreign Ministry portfolio in succession to Mr. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, who originally intended to travel to New York to address the Security Council.

Mr. Oubaidi, the Iranian religious leader, and the students occupying the United States Embassy, have both denounced the Security Council as an American tool.

Iran will keep in touch with United Nations officials but Mr. Oubaidi repeated his country's demand for a permanent commission of inquiry to investigate the "crimes" it seems, therefore, that for the moment President Carter cannot hope for a Security Council resolution on the Iranian situation.

Mr. Donald McHenry, the American permanent representative at the United Nations, said his Government hoped the

council would help "exert some kind of pressure upon those in Iran who wish to get out of this situation". He did not say to whom he was referring, but added: "The question is whether these persons, there have any effective say in the Government."

Meanwhile, the State Department has ordered American embassies in about ten Muslim countries to send home "non-essential" diplomats, embassy dependants and private American businessmen on a voluntary basis to lessen the risk in the event of further anti-American demonstrations.

The department would not identify the countries involved until the embassies were finished and would not say how many people would be withdrawn.

The International Court of Justice today in a message to the United Nations Secretary General said it intended to meet on December 10 to consider a United States request that it decide whether it should release the American hostages in Tehran.

Report of move: The Muslim militants holding the American hostages said they would "neither confirm nor deny" the report that all or some of the hostages had been taken out of the embassy compound to undisclosed locations.

"We will not confirm or deny that the hostages, whether some or all of them, have been moved outside," a spokesman said. "But we deny completely that they have been mistreated or anything has been done to them."

Reports that some were moved to Tehran's political prison, the Evin, are also untrue. We deny that anyone has been moved to Evin.—UPI.

Mr Smith accused of 'secret deal' with Front

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Nov 30

Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, was accused today of making a "secret deal" with Mr Joshua Nkomo, joint leader of the Patriotic Front.

Mr Christopher Sakala, the publicity secretary of the United African National Council, claimed the partnership had been revealed by the unfolding climate of goodwill in the Patriotic Front and Mr Ian Smith.

Mr Smith was not available for comment. Rumours of Mr Smith's visit to Mr Nkomo frequently at his hotel while in London for the Lancaster House talks have been circulating in political circles here for some time.

Some weeks ago, Mr Smith said he believed the Patriotic Front could win the forthcoming general election, a remark which alarmed many whites here. Although he is no longer considered the spokesman for the majority of the country's 2,300,000 whites, his opinions still carry weight.

Both Mr Smith and Mr Nkomo are from the south of the country and used to refer to each other jokingly as "fellow Matabele".

If Mr Smith is nudging closer to Mr Nkomo, it could be because he is no longer an inherent leadership qualities. He has no time for Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Prime Minister, whom he considers ineffectual.

He has said earlier this week by walking out of the House of Assembly, just before the debate on the proposed independence constitution. The previous night the bishop had criticised Mr Smith during a radio and television broadcast.

This is the second of three articles on rural Iran

Villagers of Kahak pin their hope on industrial agriculture

From Robert Fisk
Kahak, Iran, Nov 30

In the days that followed the February revolution, the villagers of Kahak not only took over their land but also the Government-owned Omran orchard, to the south of their village, and claimed that the apple trees now belonged to them.

There was a period of a few weeks when their occupation did indeed give them de facto ownership of the land. Then a couple of officials from the Revolutionary Committee, in military uniforms, came down the road in a Takestan came driving into Kahak and told the villagers to leave the orchard.

Shahk Ibrahim Zaidi, Kahak's mullah, regards the orchard with mixed feelings. "It was owned by the Shah's Government but we got nothing from it," he says.

"After the revolution, the villagers moved in but then we were told by the new authorities that our farmers would destroy the apple trees. They did not know how to grow trees. Now the new Government controls the Omran orchard, although they give us lots of apples and the villagers share in the profits. Thanks be to God."

Kahak's municipal balance sheet is complex but intriguing indicator of the disaster which most villagers seem to have felt towards the Shah. A shepherd or even a farmer could easily earn \$300 a year. But by poverty, more than 200 men out of the village's population of 950 went off to work in the town of Qazvin, 22 miles to the north, where factories producing car engines, boxes and tyres had been erected as part of the Shah's drive for industrialisation.

The factory workers did not share the Shah's desire to push Iran into the 20th century. Of those who stayed, even though their wages averaged about £1,200 per annum.

A few have drifted back to the village since the revolution. They are now working in the village. We want a doctor in the village. We want health insurance and another school."

Mr Azizi Mahmoudi, the village headman, has told the local Revolutionary Committee what he wants. "If the Government can improve this village," he says, "the villagers want to stay here. All the people want to work here but since no one has paid any attention to us in the past, we have been forced to go away and work in the factories. We want industrial agriculture. We want a doctor in the village. We want health insurance and another school."

Many of the children have to walk six miles, each way to school in the next village, and four of them, the young girl, eight, have been killed by lorries on the road in the past two years.

The mullah understands the villagers' demands. The new Government has offered to complete the building of a communal bathhouse in Kahak if the people can raise £300 towards the cost.

A farmer has applied for official permission to sink a new well for irrigation in the parched fields, where the grape vines are dried and stunted. Mr Shaliki Ibrahim has his own enthusiasm.

"In the last regime," he says, "we had no chance of saying what we thought. We had no real freedom. I hope the Government helps these people because they are religious and they go to mosques. They deserve a better life."

Now at last I can tell the people how they have been exploited by the Shah. I have been in this village, teaching the people for 10 days now—and I have achieved more in that time than in the past 10 years. Now I can tell these people how to feel free. The present authorities are quite different from the past."

Shahk Ibrahim says that he has taken a cut in salary to help the villagers but he finds it difficult to explain why the people of Kahak should have such high hopes in the economy. It is true that tractors are now being shared out among farmers by the Government and two officials from the Government have visited the village.

But then he adds, almost as an afterthought: "That farmer who is waiting to sink his well is a pilgrim and a good man. He is waiting for you in your paper because he is still waiting for permission."

Army chiefs retired over personal feud

Accra, Nov 30.—The Ghana Government today said it had retired the chief of the defence staff and the army commander because of a personality clash between the two men had led to a breakdown of cooperation, the Ghana news agency reported.

Brigadier Joseph Nunomeh, the chief of the defence staff, and Brigadier Arnold Quainoo, the army commander, were retired on Tuesday.

It also announced the retirement from the armed forces of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, who ruled Ghana for three months at the head of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council this year. Rawlings and Agence France Press.

How Nixon made his great Peking coup
In 1972 President Nixon flew to Peking for his historic meeting with Chairman Mao. "I have won a great victory," Kissinger of Mao, "who distilled raw concentrated willpower." The contrast between the psychology and styles of the two leaders could not have been more dramatic: Mao, subtle, masterful, assured; Nixon, flawed, glib, uncertain, yet still pulling it off to the end, the greatest coup of his presidency. The third extract from Kissinger's brilliant memoir, *The White House*, is in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

Sadat-Begin meeting set for mid-December

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Nov 30

President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, are due to meet in the Egyptian town of Aswan next month for talks which diplomatic observers regard as crucial for breaking the deadlock over Palestinian autonomy.

In Cairo today, the semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* said the meeting will begin on December 11. Although there was no immediate confirmation from the Israeli Government, official sources acknowledged that a meeting was scheduled for "mid-December".

The meeting will be the seventh between the two leaders since President Sadat's historic journey to Jerusalem in November, 1977. It comes at a time of renewed unrest throughout the territories occupied by Israel, and of increasing doubts about the chances of completing the

cumbersome negotiations on autonomy by May, 1980, as scheduled.

Although Mr Begin and Mr Sadat conformed observers by holding cordial talks at their last meeting in September, a number of issues have arisen since then to cloud their relationship. The most contentious is the question of Palestinian autonomy.

In a statement issued yesterday in Cairo, President Sadat gave a warning of the dangers to the peace process.

"We consider the measures taken by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including the appropriation of Arab land, the expulsion of the elected mayors of the West Bank as measures which do not contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence," he said.

Jana today quoted Colonel Gaddafi as saying: "The State cannot be destroyed because under traitor Sadat, it has become a lifeline for the enemy..."

He said Arab oil would be worthless if it fed the enemy and its allies and is used as fuel for their attacks, which bomb the Palestinian cause.

Egypt recently concluded an agreement with Israel to supply it with oil from the Sinai fields.

The Libyan news agency

Soviet bar on reporters' 'free access'

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 30

The Soviet Union was the only country to an essential clause in a document prepared by a 16-nation commission looking at communications problems in the world, the final session of which ended in Paris today.

The clause which says that all journalists should have the right of access to opposition sources was passed by the other 15 countries but Mr Sergei Losev, the Soviet delegate, and director of the Tass news agency, voted against it.

He told Mr Sean MacBride, the chairman of the commission, that he would now have to rethink his country's further participation within the commission.

The commission has been taking evidence and holding meetings for two years. In its final statement it says that individual members have until January 5 to dissociate themselves from the report which is now being prepared for presentation to Mr Amador Mbow, the Unesco Secretary-General.

The report was a key factor in last November's agreement at the Paris Unesco conference on a form of words acceptable to the West, the Third World and the Soviet bloc about the control of information.

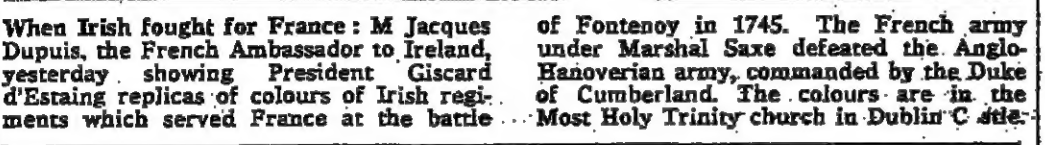
The working draft agreement, carried with reserved acclamation a year ago, owed a great deal to Mr Mustapha Masroufi, the Tunisian delegate, who was able to sew together the differences of the three parties to create a complete agreement.

Mr Masroufi, however, showed his disappointment about the way in which the report was being put together by walking out of yesterday's session.

Wartime poison found

Regensburg, Bavaria, Nov 30

Salvage workers dug up 200 vials containing a Second World War skin ointment hurriedly hidden before Allied troops occupied the village of Schierling near here.



When Irish fought for France: M Jacques Dupuis, the French Ambassador to Ireland, yesterday showing President Giscard d'Estaing replicas of colours of Irish regiments which served France at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745. The French army under Marshal Saxe defeated the Anglo-Bavarian army, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland. The colours are in the Most Holy Trinity church in Dublin City.

French MPs give permanent legality to abortion

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 30

In the face of opposition from the majority of members of the Government coalition parties, the French National Assembly today gave permanent legality to abortion. The law, which had been hotly debated for three days, was adopted by 271 votes to 201.

In its terms the law does not differ except in detail from the one passed for a five-year trial period in 1975. Again it needed the full support of the Socialists and Communists plus a number of defectors from the ranks of the Government parties to carry the law. There were 45 of these from among the 121 Giscardians of the Union pour la Démocratie Française and 24 of the 154 Gaullists.

The vote showed that despite a strong campaign mounted by the Roman Catholic Church and by the Gaullist Assembly-

ment, the Assembly as a whole felt that the reality of the situation was that France could not return to a time when abortion was illegal.

The debate, originally due to last two days, was prolonged in large measure by a rearguard action of members who must have realized that they had no chance of preventing the law being passed. There were 69 speakers and 130 amendments to go through before the final vote could be taken.

The Opposition, although they formed the backbone of the vote, nevertheless failed to carry their principal amendment making abortion available on social security.

The law decrees that women "in a state of distress" can apply for an abortion before the tenth week of pregnancy. The operation has to be carried out by a qualified doctor in an approved hospital. Parental consent is required for minors.

Deal clears way for Basque home rule Bill

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 30

A last minute deal between the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) and the Government cleared the way for the smooth passage of a motion of ratification of the Basque Home Rule Bill in the lower house of the Spanish Parliament today.

The Congress of Deputies ratified the Bills for both the Basque country and Catalonia last night with negligible opposition.

The Senate (Upper House) must also ratify the Bills before they can be sent to King Juan Carlos for his signature which will make them law.

Before the voting, Government negotiators met behind closed doors with representatives of the PNV in order to head off a threatened boycott of the ratification vote by Basque MPs.

The Basques wanted, and apparently got, a promise that a future referendum on the question of whether to incorporate the northern province of Navarra into the Basque country will be held simultaneously in Navarra and in the three provinces which form part of the Basque region—Alava, Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya.

Ex-SS men 'suspected Jews were sent to die'

Cologne, Nov 30.—Two former SS officers said in court today they suspected that Dutch Jews deported to Poland were sent to die.

Wilhelm Harster, a former SS colonel and Wilhelm Zeph, a former SS captain, testified in the trial of Kurt Lischka, Herbert Hagen and Ernst Heinrichs, who are charged with the deportation of 73,000 Jews from occupied France to extermination camps in Poland.

The three former Gestapo (Nazi secret police) officials deny that they knew anything about the real fate awaiting their victims in Eastern Europe. They thought the French Jews were sent to labour camps, they claimed.

Harster, aged 75, now retired, and Zeph, aged 71, now working as a musician, were high-ranking Gestapo officials. Both served lengthy prison sentences for their parts in the wartime deportation of Jews from Holland.

The suspicion that Jews deported to occupied Poland were killed there intensified during their activities in the Netherlands. Both witnesses said they knew no details and did not want to know any, either.

Harster and Zeph, held similar positions in the

athrow rt DC 10 ding

or believed that the was caused by one of the, and he shut it down. The DC10s at there the crew found vibration had some started the engine and top to Miami. It was at there during the this on the elevators balancing had been of the, because it said could blow up. ing on the incident, can Federal Aviation (FAA) said: could be no reason for regarding the air- of the airplane. The on will appear on the national aspect."

LA has nearly com- investigation of manu- procedures at the Douglas plant in where the 300 DC10s th 42 airplanes were it was undertaken crash in May 1982. An Airlines aircraft of soon after take-off

Wreckage of an Air New Zealand DC10 airliner that crashed on Wednesday on the slopes of Mount Erebus in the Antarctic.

any doubt on the DC10's continuing safety." Yesterday, the chief executive of New Zealand Airways, Mr Morris Davis, said that the DC10 which crashed into the side of Mount Erebus, an active volcano in Antarctica, while on a sightseeing excursion, was "not ailing" at the time. Rescuers who reached the remote site said that the fuel tanks were two-thirds full.

This appears to rule out theories that the crash was caused by a fatigue failure or fuel shortage. A suggestion made by the leader of the recovery operation, Mr Roy Thomson, that the crew made a navigational error, was rejected by the New Zealand Airline Pilots' Association as "a scurrilous hypothesis."

difficulties they face in being able to do as apprentices and in legislation restricting the training of blacks for skilled jobs in white areas. Many company managements are also prejudiced against giving blacks skilled jobs.

Dr. Blackie Stewart, a member of the National Manpower Commission, says: "The main thing is to change the legislation. Once that is done you can start to change people's attitudes."

The removal of job reservation is not being done for reasons of altruism. It must be seen as part of the strategy for economic development.

Both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour have said that economic discrimination against blacks while maintaining white minority rule.

The soaring price of gold has brought the Government a huge windfall. It is a pity that it can use this money to expand the economy only by making better use of the

to bring Skytrain to Hongkong

From Our Air Correspondent

Laker Airways' efforts to open a scheduled service between London and Hongkong have been rejected in favour of Zetland, Caledonian and Cathay Pacific.

The decision by the Hongkong air transport licensing authority announced yesterday effectively blocks the 30-year monopoly which British Airways and its predecessors have had on this busy route where it is often difficult to obtain seats.

It also comes as a severe blow to Sir Freddie Laker, chairman of Aer Airway, who planned to operate a round-the-world Skytrain service.

He will, however, have an opportunity to object to the

...to the city of Vienna.
...ing, No. 30-A, a larger
...that usual crowd gathered at
...democracy wall" today to read
...posters before an expected
...crackdown by municipal
...authorities.

The crowd that fluctuated in
...size reaching an estimated 300
...to 400 at one time, read political
...posters put up many days
...ago.

Two middle-aged men put up
...non-political posters in the
...morning after the Peking
...municipal authorities had been
...dealt with problems at
...the Wall. UPL

Hongkong reverts to wartime pr

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Nov 30

Seventy former prisoners of
war who survived Japanese
imprisonment in Hongkong are
discouraged by a decision this week
that they are not entitled to pen-
sions.

For 34 years the dwindling
number of former prisoners
have sought full pensions, which
are granted in Canada, the
United States and Australia.

In announcing that the pen-
sions will not be paid, Mr. Eric
Ho, the Hongkong Secretary of
Social Services, said many civil-
ians living in Hongkong during
the Japanese occupation suf-
fered no less than those in cap-
tivity.

There was an angry reaction
to this from Mr. David Pauline,
who spent three and a half
years in Hongkong, after being
captured in Malaysia.

He said: "I would like him
to go to hell for half years
half famine - and torture,
watching his friends starve
and beatings and malnutri-
tion. We had people smuggling

yesterday it could begin operations within six months, if the CAA approved, starting with three flights each week.

British Caledonian said it would begin four flights each week from April 1 with fares starting at £100 single for "eleven-hour standby".

Correction

In his Kampala Diary in *The Times* of November 16 Nicholas Ashford described Makerere University as a "closed campus". In fact, this distinction belongs to the University of Sierra Leone which races in on its, to 1977.

Refuses pensions prisoners

us food through the wire fences. Bow can he say that were as badly off as we were?"

It is recalled that the death rate among prisoners of war in Hongkong was one in three compared with only one in 20 in Europe.

Seven of the 70 former prisoners are not entitled to a grant under the War Memorial Fund because they were not captured in Hongkong. Others have refused to claim anything for their grant—£8,870 to £300 a month for a single person and \$BK17,400 (£160) for a married person—because of the prolonged and intensive investigation to which they would have to submit.

Sir Inishevel, chairman of the prisoners' association, said that an appeal would be made to the Hongkong Government against the ruling. It has also been suggested that the case should be taken to the International Court of Justice.

Payment of full pensions to the Hongkong survivors would cost an estimated \$HK1.5m (£140,000) a year.

[illegible]

previous complaints as to the role of the director and second prosecutor.

In the 1973 case the Court of Appeal held that the making of the arrangements which Mr. Blackburn was making would be contrary to the commission's discretion, with which the court would not interfere. The arrangements now challenged were also those that the director said it was impossible to say that the commissioner was not entitled in his discretion to give instructions to the director to do as he saw fit. The law the police should consult their legal adviser and that the more serious legal proceedings should be taken by the Crown Prosecution Service.

As to a sub-paragraph of Mr. Blackburn's notice of motion, that the commissioner be required to state his current and future Attorney General for relocator actions against those who own or manage a blue film club, the court said that the judge had not reached where the commissioner had the material necessary to make a decision on the Attorney General. In their Lordships' judgment, to decide whether or not to institute such proceedings was a matter to be decided within the discretion of the commissioner with which the court should not interfere.

Accordingly, it was impossible to say that the commissioner had "tipped his back on his duties." Mr. Blackburn had reached a point which he did not raise in 1973. He contended that the effect of the commission's decision was to remove from constables the power of arrest in obscenity cases. Apart altogether from this, the court found that the commission had no authority to divest constables of their lawful powers of arrest and any attempt by him to do so would be a nullity. In 1973, Lordships were satisfied that the practical effect of the commissioner's instructions was not to remove from constables the power of arrest.

The result was that the motion failed and must be dismissed.

Procurators: Metropolitan Police Solicitor.

Patrick v. Moore and
[1952] NI 152) and in the
case of *Bourgeois v*
[1952] 9 D.L.R. 214) it
that the benefits were
wholly.

problem came before the
Appeal in *Parsons v*
Charitable Trust Ltd on appeal
from the *Queen's Bench*.
that unemployment
should be disregarded
argument in the Court
The court had been
Bourgeois v Fitzpatrick,
Irish case of *Tipper*.
The court unanimously
the master's decision and
the damages. That
as applied by Mr Justice
Henson in a personal
Parsons and Another
[1955] 1 All E.R. 1001.

[illegible]

to an "application," then no more did the addition of income to capital through the use of a trust fund constitute an "application" of the funds. The facts the foundation clearly was.

The first submission was clearly correct.

In answer to the second submission, the trust accepted that the mere holding of moneys in suspense would not constitute an "application" for the purposes of the sections but contended that a charity's income could properly be applied to the purposes of the "charitable purposes" if it had been used by way of augmenting its endowment by the accumulation of funds.

Both arguments, both parties on the second submission left his Lordship with a number of doubts. However, in the circumstances, his Lordship made a decision. Whatever other doubts arose as to the meaning of "applicable to charitable purposes," ordinarily income must be said to have been so applied by a charitable corporation if it has been applied by the trust to another charitable corporation. Any charitable corporation which, in the exercise of its powers, transfers income to another charity is entitled to the same exemption without showing how the money was dealt with by the transferee.

His Lordship said that he brought itself within the wording of the relevant sections and the appeal was dismissed.

member

the full derogatory force of the adjectives 'infamous' and 'disgraceful' in section 23 must be qualified by the consideration that the conduct in question is the conduct of a dentist in a professional respect, which falls to be judged by the standards of his profession, it appears to their Lordships that these two adjectives nevertheless deserve the strongest reprobation, and indeed so heinous as to merit, with the penalty of striking-off." It would be a commendable course for those words to be cited in every disciplinary case.

However, a misdirection to the committee only invalidated the decision if it were of substantial significance to the result. The committee in the present case had been reminded of decisions which had been made in the past, and accurately stating the law. The assessor's advice was not sufficiently defective to render the finding invalid.

The only sentence the committee had jurisdiction to impose under the Act was to erase the dentist's name from the register. If it did not do that it could, and not infrequently did, deliver an unofficial reprimand. The corresponding provisions relating to doctors, which were not in issue, provided a sentence of suspension for less serious breaches of the professional code. The Dentists Act ought to be reconsidered in this regard.

It was also open to the committee to postpone sentence, which might have been appropriate in the instant case. But as the committee had already ruled in the Medical Act, 1936, their Lordships, although having in terms unlimited powers to correct the committee's decision, did not in the present case interfere with the committee's exercise of its discretion. Although the sentence of erasure was severe, it could not be said to be wrong or unjustified.

Solicitors: Hemmings; Waterhouse & Co.

Saturday Review

The Tay Bridge disaster

By Alan Hamilton

"Beautiful Railway Bridge of the Silvery Tay!
Alas! I am very sorry to say
That ninety lives have been
taken away
On the last Sabbath day of
1879.
Which will be remembered
for a very long time."

William McGonagall, self-styled poet and tragedian of Dundee, was unquestionably the greatest but poet Scotland ever produced, a veritable Virgil of the exhortatory couplet. When he composed the above deathless stanza he was 49, but still only at the beginning of a literary career which was to culminate in the ultimate recognition of being turned away from the gates of Balmoral Castle.

It is entirely fitting that this master carver of the artless, banality, this Homer of the bathetic epic whose only claim to expertise was an unshakable faith in his own incompetence, should be remembered above all today for his tragic narrative, *The Tay Bridge Disaster*. He was wrong about the numbers drowned but right that it would stay in the mind for a very long time. McGonagall, for all his faults, had a certain facility for conveying popular sentiment.

The best remembered of all great railway accidents, perhaps thanks to the bard of Dundee, occurred a century ago, on the Sunday night of December 28, 1879.

The Tay Bridge which fell that ferocious winter night, taking with it a train and seventy-five luckless souls, was itself like a McGonagall poem, a rickety epic of engineering, inadequate in design and inept in construction which was remarkable, not for being done well, but for being done at all.

Its collapse was no mere misfortune as he forgot with the next day's news. It was, at a few feet short of two miles, by far the longest bridge in the world, the most daring expression to date of the Victorians' supreme self-confidence in their mechanical skills.

Its fall created a shockwave comparable with that felt at the sinking of the *Titanic* 33 years later. It was a rude awakening and an awful warning to a nation that had grown complacent with achievement and carelessness in its relentless pursuit of industrial progress.

Particularly, it cast a shadow of doubt over the nation's engineers, who until then had seemed capable of anything, from the Crystal Palace to the Great Western Railway. Nothing like the Tay Bridge had ever been built before, and nothing quite like it was ever attempted again. The construction exposed the designer, Thomas Bouch, as the outstanding civil engineer of his day. Its collapse ruined, broke, and in a very short time killed him.

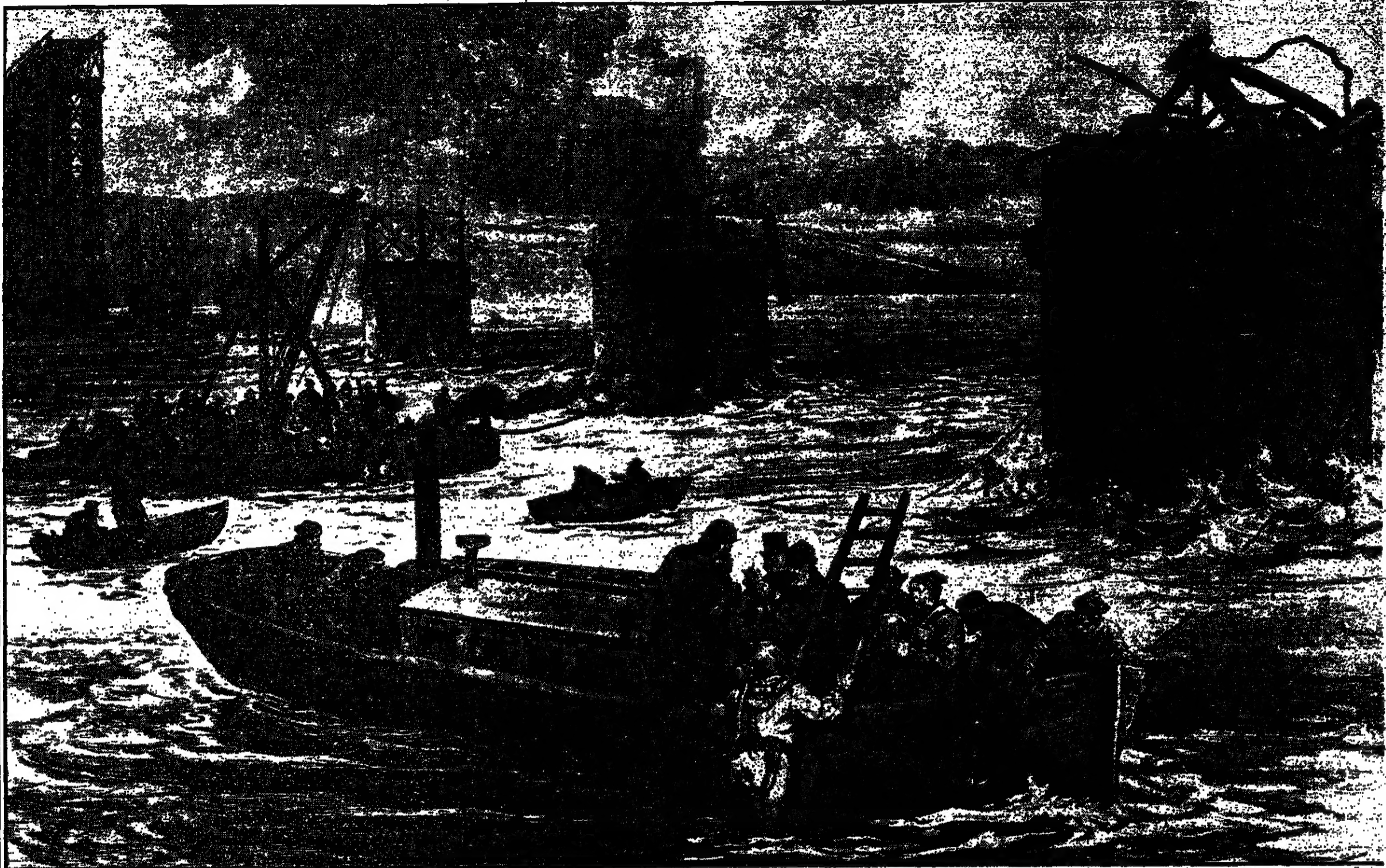
Thomas Bouch was the third son of a Cumberland ironmaster who claimed to have been seized with the desire to be an engineer on hearing his village schoolmaster deliver a lesson on the principles of the Archimedes Screw. He created such a good impression in his first job, as an apprentice on the building of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, that his employer wrote to his old school asking for a fresh supply of boys of similar calibre.

In 1849 at the age of 27, when the railway mania was at its height, Bouch went to work on a modest little track in Edinburgh, where he gave birth to an obsession which was to remain with him all his life, and which indeed was to prove his undoing.

At the time the two main rail routes from London to Scotland, the east and west coast lines, were beginning to take shape, and it was plain that their eventual destination would be Aberdeen. The west coast route could strike north from Glasgow, clamber round the bottom edge of the Highland plateau by Perth, and approach Aberdeen from the landward. The way was indirect and decidedly hilly. How much easier, faster and cheaper, it would be to continue the flat, straight, east coast route north from Edinburgh by the easy terrain of eastern Scotland.

There were two massive obstacles, the great tidal estuaries of Forth and Tay which gash the eastern seaboard, neither less than a mile wide at any convenient crossing. To Thomas Bouch the solution was obvious: they would have to be bridged. It was, of course, preposterous. Whoever heard of a railway bridge a mile long, and across a tidal estuary at that? Apart from the sheer impracticability, the cost would be unimaginable.

Bouch bided his time, and



Diving operations in search of the wreck of the railway train

for the moment was content to amaze everyone by designing the world's first train ferry in 1850, to carry wagons five miles across the Forth from Granton to Burntisland. With its ingenious system of moving ramps to counter the 20ft tide it was a great success, and established Bouch's reputation, enabling him to leave his railway job and set up on his own as a consulting civil engineer. He consistently refused to hang his brass plate in Great George Street, Westminster, the Harley Street of his profession, preferring the profitable provincial obscurity of George Street, Edinburgh.

Here, for the next 20 years, he created a solid reputation as a builder of cut-price railways, of cheap, highly constructed but reliable lines tailor-made for those out-of-the-way places too unprofitable for the big networks to reach.

Many of his lines and bridges were standing a century later until felled by the Beecching axe. He found time too, to lay out the tramways of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee.

But his great dream was never far from his mind. With indomitable persistence he tramped time and again down to Princes Street to the offices of the North British Railway, where standing a century later until felled by the Beecching axe. He found time too, to lay out the tramways of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee.

Eventually, probably more to be rid of Bouch's constant pestering than from any serious intent, the railway allowed him to conduct a series of test borings for a Forth Bridge. But it was a half-hearted exercise, beset by technical difficulties, and it petered out.

Thomas Bouch was not going to give up that easily, and he tried another tack. Encouraged by some influential friends in the city, he went to Dundee and, at a well-attended public meeting, extolled the virtues of a bridge across the Tay, the most obvious being that the city's busy mills and factories would then have direct access to cheap coal from the pits of Fife, across the water.

The Dundeeans were suspicious of such a venture, but Bouch assured them he had conquered the design problems

down to the last detail, demonstrating with one of his vast rolls of drawings. And when he announced he could build such a bridge for less than £200,000, the citizens of Dundee were convinced.

At once the Provost and a clutch of leading industrialists formed a committee, set up a company, and issued a prospectus. But it was to be another six years before the promoters were able to push a Bill through Parliament, there being a host of objections, from the Caledonian Railway, proprietors of the inland route to Aberdeen, to the City of Perth, whose pride as the ancient Scottish capital was wounded by the vision of a bridge preventing shipping reaching it up the Tay. Not that much shipping ever did.

In the meantime the North British Railway had a boardroom shuffle and acquired a dynamic, aristocratic new chairman, John Stirling of Kippendavie, who was firmly behind the Tay Bridge project and gave it the railway's support. The Bill finally went through, and on July 22, 1871, Thomas Bouch stood on the south shore of the wide Tay estuary and watched the laying of the foundation stone of his dream.

Bouch, a tall, black-bearded man of stern and purposeful visage, detested the press, and he ensured that no reporter was present at the ceremony. So the *Dundee Advertiser* let off some small-arms fire in his direction.

"What will be the use of attempting to carry the great East Coast Route for more than two miles suspended between the sky and the water on about the width of a respectable dining table? It assumes immense faith in railway passengers to imagine that they will trust themselves on this iron tightrope carried at so great an elevation above the stream. Railway travelling will certainly be made a gymnastic feat so far as this bridge is concerned."

And from the Sidlaw Hills overlooking the wide Tay, Patrick Matthew, a fruit farmer, wrote the first of a series of letters to the papers of such prophetic insight that he became known as the Seer of Gourdie.

"The Great Eastern (Brunel's steamship) was just such another blunder as the erection of this great bridge will be. They are both steps wide of precedent and beyond experience."

of its angle of crossing, a hundred feet high in the centre to allow shipping clearance, built of spidery lattice girders laid on top of 85 slender brick piers, a clothes line supported on a row of clothes props. But Bouch had, after all, promised a bridge for less than a quarter of a million.

The designer also promised that his great work would be ready to receive trains in a mere three years, but it soon became clear that such a promise was going to be wildly unattainable. From the very first, things began to go wrong. The contractor appointed to build the bridge died before he could begin, the second contractor also mysteriously died halfway through the work, and

the third who actually finished the job not only went bankrupt, but contracted paralysis from the intense worry.

Then the calamities began. Before starting, Bouch had hired a driller to make test borings of the river bed, and the driller had reported happily that the Tay flowed on solid bedrock all the way across. As the fifteenth pier was being built he was found to have made a serious error: the river bed in midstream was not rock but a thin crust of gravel overlying a bottomless pit of mud.

Anyone but Bouch would have thrown in the towel, but he simply changed his design, abandoning solid brick piers in favour of much lighter supports of lattice iron that would

not sink into the Tay. The work went ahead.

The iron columns provided an added bonus. Work was falling badly behind schedule, chiefly because of appalling weather which kept the construction gangs shorebound for days, sometimes weeks, on end; and iron columns could be erected much faster than brick. But early in 1877 the elements chose to show their displeasure in more dramatic fashion.

Two of the central girders had been placed in position on top of their columns by hydraulic jacks, ready to be bolted down. A sudden and violent storm swept down from the Highland hills in the darkness of a Friday evening. The rescue boat was on its way out to make off the workmen as a safety precaution when the crew heard three violent explosions, a grinding of wreckage, iron, and a tremendous splash. Four hundred tons of iron had fallen into the river, leaving 30 men clinging for their lives to the mangled remains of a pier.

By the time the bridge was finished 20 men, working 12-hour shifts in the bitter cold for eight weeks on end, had died in its building.

But at last, four years late and at a final cost of £300,000, it was finished. The Board of Trade inspected it and passed it fit, although with a maximum speed limit of 10 mph and a regret that they had not had more time to study the effects of wind pressure. Dundee, threw a huge bannock for Bouch and gave him the freedom of the city.

He did not even have the grace to turn up, he was far too busy at the drawing board with his next masterpiece, a suspension bridge a mile long and 500 feet high, to span the Forth.

Now that the Tay Bridge was finished, the press withdrew most of its criticism, and the Times was moved to enthusiasm.

"It is so long, so lofty, yet so narrow, that when seen from the heights above Newport it looks like a mere cable along from shore to shore; and when seen from the river it looks like a thin line excited the same kind of nervousness as must have been felt by those who watched Sheddin crossing the Niagara. Tremble as its appearance is, however, there is no doubt about its thorough stability."

Thomas Bouch had to wait for one more year for his final accolade. In June of 1878 the Queen graciously consented to travel home from Balmoral by the new bridge, and let it be known that she would be pleased to grant a night's rest to the gentry behind it. Sir

Thomas Bouch was now 57 years old, and the most celebrated engineer in the kingdom.

On the morning of Sunday, December 28, 1879, the day began in Dundee clear and still, almost unnaturally so, but shortly after lunch the barometer began to fall; the wind stirred and a light southerly got up, soon veering westerly and gathering strength. The barometer fell an inch to 28.30 during the afternoon, and by four o'clock it had begun to rain. All down the east coast, from Aberdeen to the Tyne, the wind rose to gale, bringing with it heavy squalls and showers of rain. By six o'clock it was raining the window panes of Dundee and checking chimney pots and tiles from the roofs. By seven it was unsafe to step out of doors.

Across the river in Fife, the last train of the day from Edinburgh to Dundee was halting, through the rain, its passengers already weary from a choppy crossing of the Forth on Sir Thomas's train ferry, and looking forward to arriving in Dundee station at 7.15. Mr James Lawson, a Dundee resident whose house overlooked the estuary, glanced at his watch and went to the window to see if the train would attempt the bridge in such a tempest. Through the inky darkness he saw its lights on the southern shore, as later that night he told the local correspondent of *The Times*.

Once on the bridge it seemed to move with great swiftness, and when the engine entered the tunnel-like darkness of the great girders, the effect of the lights as seen through the lattice-work, when the engine exclaimed: "Look papa! I'm not like lightning! AB: his light comes due to tell but to the eye it seemed as if, almost simultaneously with the entrance of the train upon this part of the bridge, a colossal burst of fiery sparks sprang out, as if forcibly ejected into the darkness from the engine. In a long, white trail the great fire was seen, all quenched in the stormy water below. Then there was a dense darkness on the bridge."

Some minutes later a brief burst of light showed a great column of smoke and steam, and the wreckage of the bridge was seen. The train was a mass of twisted iron and twisted men. The bridge had been set up on site, cast the columns and girders. The Cleveland iron had been of the most inferior grade, and the foundry operated without any kind of supervision, competent being sent out to the bridge with notes but no cursory inspection from the foreman. Fergus Ferguson's columns were cast off-center with lugs and brackets and with great cracks which were disguised with a paint known as Beaman's Egg, looking for all the world like iron but made from a mixture of benzene and soap.

And who, the inquiry asked, had taken care to check up maintaining this iron bridge once it was built? An inspector of brickwork, they were

who brought up the seagulls leaving him to read it. Within an hour the engine of the world's longest bridge was on his way to Dundee.

At daybreak the morning papers brought the first facts to a stunned nation. A Times story was brief: "Tonight a heavy gale was over Dundee, and a portion of the Tay Bridge was blown down while the train from Edinburgh due at 7.15 was passing. It is believed that the train is in a water, but the gale is still strong that a steamer has yet been able to reach it."

The scene at the Tay Bridge station tonight, a scene appalling. Many thousand people are congregated around the buildings, and strong winds and waves are washing the hands in despair."

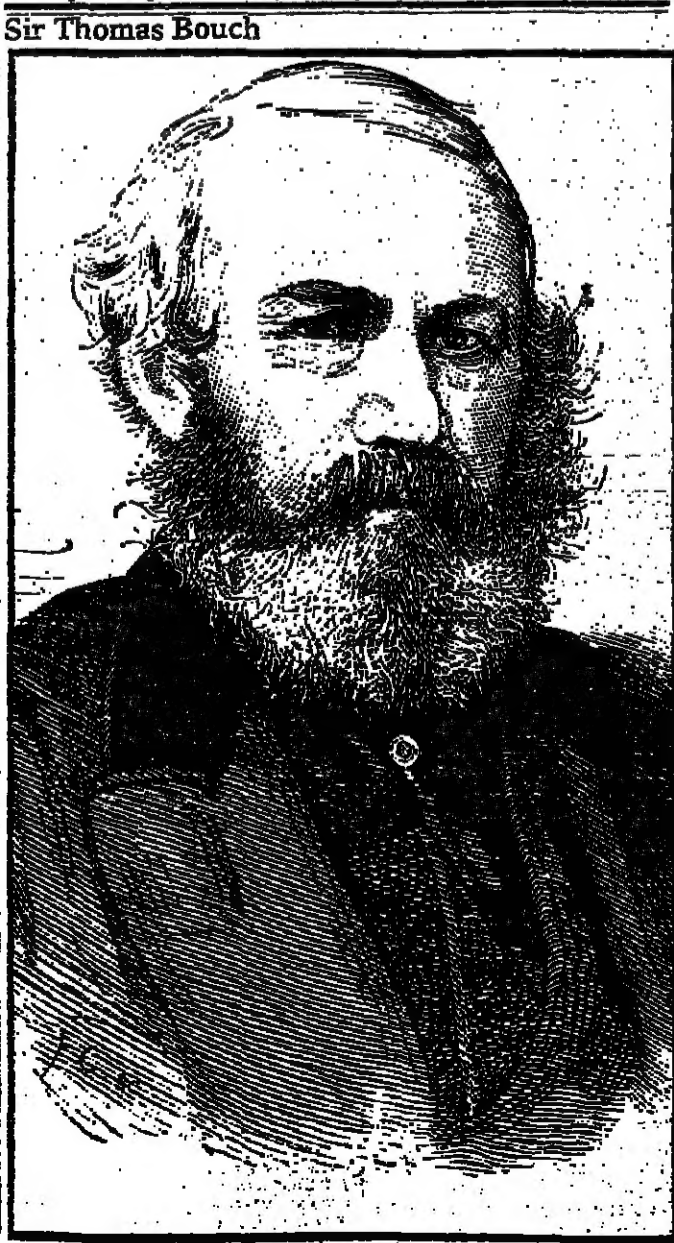
And alongside, an editor commented: "Such an accident as this, so swift in its magnitude, has never been known in England." Scottish Presbyterian ministers were not slow to draw the Lord's vengeance, the rained upon the railway companies who profaned the Lord's Day by causing the hands in despair."

Those questions unanswered, every tale of misfortune, mismanagement and misadventure concerned with the building and running of the world's biggest bridge.

The examiners heard of the 25mph speed limit on the bridge had been blatantly ignored, as engine drivers rated the ferries across the Tay. And they heard hair-raising tales of the iron foundry that had been set up on site, cast the columns and girders. The Cleveland iron had been of the most inferior grade, and the foundry operated without any kind of supervision, competent being sent out to the bridge with notes but no cursory inspection from the foreman. Fergus Ferguson's columns were cast off-center with lugs and brackets and with great cracks which were disguised with a paint known as Beaman's Egg, looking for all the world like iron but made from a mixture of benzene and soap.

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322.50, 325.00, 327.50, 330.00, 332.50, 335.00, 337.50, 340.00, 342.50, 345.00, 347.50, 350.00, 352.50, 355.00, 357.50, 360.00, 362.50, 365.00, 367.50, 370.00, 372.50, 375.00, 377.50, 380.00, 382.50, 385.00, 387.50, 390.00, 392.50, 395.00, 397.50, 400.00, 402.50, 405.00, 407.50, 410.00, 412.50, 415.00, 417.50, 420.00, 422.50, 425.00, 427.50, 430.00, 432.50, 435.00, 437.50, 440.00, 442.50, 445.00, 447.50, 450.00, 452.50, 455.00, 457.50, 460.00, 462.50, 465.00, 467.50, 470.00, 472.50, 475.00, 477.50, 480.00, 482.50, 485.00, 487.50, 490.00, 492.50, 495.00, 497.50, 500.00, 502.50, 505.00, 507.50, 510.00, 512.50, 515.00, 517.50, 520.00, 522.50, 525.00, 527.50, 530.00, 532.50, 535.00, 537.50, 540.00, 542.50, 545.00, 547.50, 550.00, 552.50, 555.00, 557.50, 560.00, 562.50, 565.00, 567.50, 570.00, 572.50, 575.00, 577.50, 580.00, 582.50, 585.00, 587.50, 590.00, 592.50, 595.00, 597.50, 600.00, 602.50, 605.00, 607.50, 610.00, 612.50, 615.00, 617.50, 620.00, 622.50, 625.00, 627.50, 630.00, 632.50, 635.00, 637.50, 640.00, 642.50, 645.00, 647.50, 650.00, 652.50, 655.00, 657.50, 660.00, 662.50, 665.00, 667.50, 670.00, 672.50, 675.00, 677.50, 680.00, 682.50, 685.00, 687.50, 690.00, 692.50, 695.00, 697.50, 700.00, 702.50, 705.00, 707.50, 710.00, 712.50, 715.00, 717.50, 720.00, 722.50, 725.00, 727.50, 730.00, 732.50, 735.00, 737.50, 740.00, 742.50, 745.00, 747.50, 750.00, 752.50, 755.00, 757.50, 760.00, 762.50, 765.00, 767.50, 770.00, 772.50, 775.00, 777.50, 780.00, 782.50, 785.00, 787.50, 790.00, 792.50, 795.00, 797.50, 800.00, 802.50, 805.00, 807.50, 810.00, 812.50, 815.00, 817.50, 820.00, 822.50, 825.00, 827.50, 830.00, 832.50, 835.00, 837.50, 840.00, 842.50, 845.00, 847.50, 850.00, 852.50, 855.00, 857.50, 860.00, 862.50, 865.00, 867.50, 870.00, 872.50, 875.00, 877.50, 880.00, 882.50, 885.00, 887.50, 890.00, 892.50, 895.00, 897.50, 900.00, 902.50, 905.00, 907.50, 910.00, 912.50, 915.00, 917.50, 920.00, 922.50, 925.00, 927.50, 930.00, 932.50, 935.00, 937.50, 940.00, 942.50, 945.00, 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The sound of joy at the proms

The schools prom is intoxicating. The effervescent delight of the children in the audience is almost tangible. The agony of musicians waiting to perform, some only five years old, and then their courage in overcoming these fears when their turn comes, sharpens the senses and heightens one's appreciation.

I went on the first night and found it, as before, one of the most bubbling happy and enjoyable events of the year. And, in a quite uncharacteristic way, I felt proud of Britain's youth. The highlights of the Monday evening, for me, was the exquisite purity and simplicity of the songs of the little girls at Hillside Infants school, from Blaenavon, Gwent; the hauntingly beautiful Air on a G String arranged for the Elmwood steel band of Croydon by their conductor Russell Henderson, and the contagiously enthusiastic playing of the Walsall youth jazz orchestra.

Every year, established musicians give their time free of charge to appear as guest soloists at the schools prom. This year's guest artists included John Dankworth, Anthony Hopkins, Don Lusher and Caroline Dale, a 13-year-old cellist, who has twice won the Suggia Gift, an international award for cellists under 21.

At the prom, Mr. Derek Jewell, reminded the audience, such superb musicianship is not achieved without sacrifice and much hard work by the children and teachers involved. While other children are out playing, they are in practice.

Wardle comprehensive school in Rochdale did not play in the schools prom this year, but it got to the finals with its recorder group, all aged 13. The school learn a musical instrument, free of charge.

The school of 360 pupils is only two and a half years old, yet it already has three brass bands, two jazz bands, a jazz band, a swing band, two woodwind ensembles, three choirs, classical, folk, and pop guitar groups, and four recorder groups.

When the school was set up in 1977 with a intake of 120 (11-year-olds), Mr. William Anderson, the headmaster, begged the Rochdale authority to give him 30 instruments to help establish an "esprit de corps".

The school had no music teacher, but the staff of the first year had won 12 music trophies. With the money raised from parents, prizes, and playing at shows and dances, another 56 instruments were bought for the new intake of pupils. Last year, 180 pupils had won 112 trophies. It now has some 112 instruments. It now has some 112 instruments. It now has some 112 instruments.

This was the fifth year of the schools prom, held over three nights at the Royal Albert Hall, and sponsored by The Times, the Times Educational Supplement and Commercial Union Assurance. More than 1,000 pupils, nearly all under 18, took part. Tens of thousands more came to listen.

As at the traditional "senior" promenade concert, the schools prom always ends with the Land of Hope and Glory, conducted by Anthony Hopkins, before the children spill out from the dazzling lights and thundering applause into chilly night air to catch their buses home. We may no longer be a land of hope and glory, but at least it was an evening of glory and hope and of utter delight.

Diana Gedges
Education Correspondent

All out of the union trenches?

Fred Emery

The Cabinet's intention is to draw the sting of union hostility by getting the second reading before Christmas

December 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbour, is this year set to become a potent date in British political life, and certainly in the life of Mrs Thatcher's Government. Will it be remembered for the divebomber cry of *Tora! Tora! Tora!* which some Whitehall wags attribute to the Prime Minister's style of attack? Or will it mark the awakening, like the United States in 1941, of the slumbering giant of Britain's silent majority?

The answer could be several years coming, and it could be: neither. But the outcome, is more important, in spite of this weekend's necessary pre-occupations, than either the EEC summit or the Rhodesia settlement. Next Friday, the Government's long-awaited Bill for trades union reform, assuming completion of last minute amendments, is due to be presented to Parliament. The Cabinet's intention is to draw the sting of union hostility by getting the Commons second reading debate out of the way before Christmas.

The Bill's presentation to the public will be even more important. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, its author, knows better than anyone that this single Bill, with relatively limited changes to the law, cannot produce some magic answer for our stifling industrial relations.

Psychologically, it is a key moment, and the measures themselves of such moment that Mr Prior told the Conservative conference, "we cannot afford to get them wrong". They must be seen as the mainstay for the Government's policy to try restoring balance in relationships between unions and management. They are what many people voted for in the election, if by that one can accept the notion that a large number, including many union members, voted against the excesses of last winter's strikes.

Mr Prior's difficult task is to ensure understanding that the proposals do not intend "union bashing"; also that they do intend protection for the individual from intimidation, whether through closed shop or picketing practices.

The political trap all Ministers have to avoid is a replay of the fiasco at the Heath government's Industrial Relations Act. While there is every sign that union leaders are not much concerned with public opinion it would be disastrous if the Government were to throw support back their way by pretending somehow to bring the unions to heel, and even victimize them.

Ideally, Mr Prior would have preferred to have had the acquiescence of TUC leaders, or at best a non-aggression pact. This was never on. But at present it does look as if union leaders will find it hard to whip up a crusade in defence of their sacred inviolability.

Recent opinion polls showed massive majorities in favour of the reforms Mr Prior is proposing on the closed shop, picketing and secret ballots. Then, just when it seemed that the unions themselves might be making discreet efforts to ensure good behaviour and so make the Bill unnecessary along came trouble.

Opinion was sensitized all over again by the behaviour of the Charing Cross hospital pickets: equally the BL imbricatio Mr Derek Robinson's dismissal reignited popular doubts over shop stewards.

These events have also exposed the disarray between union leaders. And it was a further index of the disarray distracting the Labour Party as well that Mrs Thatcher's indication last week that troops would be used if necessary to get hospital supplies through passed without protest.

But Mr Prior is the first to recognize that such disarray presents danger as well as opportunity. Irrational behaviour could well flow from the divisions within the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union leaders at each other's throats over the Robinson affair. Unwelcome temptations are offered to the Tory right wing for union-baiting.

Mr Prior has had some fierce tussles with his Cabinet colleagues since taking office. He has been held up as "wet" by those close to Mrs Thatcher, for his old fashioned attempts at conciliation through consultation. But he has won Cabinet support because of a number of disputes his approach has been working, not least through meetings with Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary on the Bill itself all he got for

attract writers of talent in such numbers as it did. The more lucrative attractions of television, of journalism, of the theatre even, have dissipated the great English tradition for the writing of fiction.

The great surge of new novels that began in the mid-1950s appears to have dried up. First novels are still published in some numbers, but how many potentially great novelists have been discovered in the 1970s? For new talent to emerge, there must be a market for it, a market for the writing of fiction.

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his pains was an angry sterile confrontation. "The beginning of fascism" was the reproach thrown at him by Mr Jim Slater of the National Union of Seamen at Thursday's meeting with the TUC committee. "Revolutionary", complained Mr Harry Urvin of the TGWU, Mr Prior was clearly pained that the TUC should be plausibly demanding to see what documentary evidence the Government had of union intimidation. Non-TUC leaders and press accounts of last winter's lorry drivers' strike were not admissible, it seemed.

In all this there remains a dilemma for the Government. While they press ahead with the Bill Ministers must also seek to work with the TUC. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has made quite a point of next Wednesday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council on the economy. "There is no reason why the TUC, the CBI and the Government should not set aside outstanding differences in pursuit of common objectives", he said last week. And yet what glimmers of hope there might have been of "concerted action" over pay policy—which Mr Prior wants—are disappearing.

Union leaders are clearly irritated. They have refused to take their strikes in support of Mr Robinson to be made official. Of the 22 interviewed after the NEDC climb-down, 90 per cent felt their executive had done the wrong thing and had exposed their shop stewards to a new era of uncertainty and weakness. Some found the decision of their leaders "incomprehensible, others 'shameful'".

Tacked away in a seafloor hatch in Eastbourne, they could not be privy to all the facts that made the AUEW executive decide that they "could not live with the closure of BL". It was a gut reaction, and much of what took place on the shop stewards' "Black Tuesday" has yet to be told.

It seems that Sir Michael Edwards telephoned Mr Terry Duffy, the engineers' president, while the executive was in session, and suggested that he should go round to the union offices in Peckham to address them.

This idea was rejected as an unwelcome trespass, but the executive agreed to meet him on neutral ground. Once they were together, the BL chairman suggested that the dismissal should be put to a ballot of the workforce in much the same way as the "survival" plan had been.

The engineers' leaders, getting nervous by now of too ready an embrace of the ballot box, at a time when secret votes form a central plank in the Government's industrial relations strategy, would not entertain the idea. They were also staggered by the company's proposal that the union should pay Mr Robinson's wages—and be reimbursed later if it took all three hours to write from Sir Michael the marginally race-saving formula now being put into practice.

The engineers' leaders disagree among themselves how long the inquiry by the three AUEW wise men should take. Mr Weakley is said to argue that his work could be completed in a matter of days; Sir John Boyd, a master of weeks; Mr. D. J. H. would take a month; and a most congenial one it is, too, as I am sure Philip Howard will find.

What worries me most, however, is that of all the vast range of books published, the novel no longer seems to attract writers of talent in such numbers as it did. The more lucrative attractions of television, of journalism, of the theatre even, have dissipated the great English tradition for the writing of fiction.

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The challenge to labour over the Robinson affair

The repercussions of the Robinson affair will not stop at the Longbridge factory gate or in the boardroom at BL. The company's apparent success in the dispute is already being talked about in the labour movement as a fundamental challenge to the whole basis of trade unionism.

For the past week I have been assisting in the conduct of examinations held by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to draw up a new parliamentary panel. This exercise takes place after every general election and it attracts some of the best activists in the engineering industry.

Of the 60 or so would-be MPs attending, practically all wanted the BL strikes in support of Mr Robinson to be made official. Of the 22 interviewed after the NEDC climb-down, 90 per cent felt their executive had done the wrong thing and had exposed their shop stewards to a new era of uncertainty and weakness.

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moment will probably never be known. Only hours before the meeting, it was possible to see it being argued that it can be a stark choice of Leyland and 100,000 jobs or the upstart then the company would have to go.

But when the crisis came, the challenge collapsed. The failure of nerve may be attributed to the relative inexperience of the seven-man executive. Two have only recent taken up office; the longer serving have been there only five years. Set against the three decades of service of a union's general secretary, Sir John Boyd, they are amateurs—and so is Mr Robinson; Sir John is probably the labour movement's most conscious politician, and though he did not have a vote on the executive his counsel is extremely influential. And judging by persistent stories coming out of Peckham, he thinks strike should not be known as the union's general fund but from current income.

He is unlikely, therefore, to have advised in favour of making official strikes that would have cost the union certain tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of pounds. Beyond the internal problem of his union, the Robinson affair raises a great many questions about industrial relations in the labour movement. In the decade since Donovan, it has become a commonplace activity has shifted from a centre to the shopfloor.

National bargaining has been eroded, and in some cases overtaken by plant bargaining. It is while officially welcoming the shift, many union leaders have been uneasy about the rival representative machinery it has created. It is a disaster some share the managers.

Those misgivings are so strong to explaining the shambles now of shop steward elections in British industry. It was as combine chairman that Mr Robinson was dismissed. BL's press office was quick to tell journalists: "He's an official, you know." In context, the description is practically meaningless. Combine chairmen are a natural extension of shopfloor organisation in multi-plant companies. They fill the gap between workplaces and central union bureaucracy. To call them "official" is to ignore that they are real and have genuine representative role.

The AUEW inquiry will take no less at the water impact of Mr Robinson's dismissal. This is no mistaking the dismay it has prompted among shop stewards, who are, after all, the front line of trade unionism. As one BL steward put it: "We are during the week 'It will be a hard one. It will frighten a few. They will have to take it into account when they take a shop steward's job that they are vulnerable'".

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

wards in horror crying "Excrement! Excrement!" We do not know who Delane thought about organized sport, but an admission of "horror" over the Berkshire health-care Aldershot review or about the Whitbread downs following the autumn manoeuvres—last reports in *The Times*.

He died at his residence, Ascot Heath, Berkshire, only two years after retirement leaving the paper by his service with such distinction and devotion as an enduring epitaph.

Gordon Phillips

Ion Trewin writes a fond farewell from the Literary Editor's chair

Books galore, just like Christmas every day

hood, which keeps recurring: save the best till last. Not that it makes any difference in the end, for no matter how assiduously one scans publishers' catalogues, assimilates advertisements in *The Bookseller*, or listens to the lunchtime pleadings of editors and publicity managers, inevitably a few books plucked from the parcels are unknown quantities.

This is, I suppose, hardly surprising, when one considers just how many books are submitted to *The Times* for review each year. In 1977 when we last kept a complete record, the number of books received topped 10,000—not including paperbacks. If that seems a staggering figure, it is, in fact, only one third of the new titles published in Britain each year.

Price hardly seems to matter. Seven years ago a typical paperback novel was offered at £2 or £2.50, whereas this year £4.95 is already being superseded by £5.50, even £5.95. Perhaps it is because we remain a nation of book borrowers rather than book buyers, in itself an unhealthy state of affairs if library book purchasing grants are butted with government spending cuts work themselves through to local councils.

The pleasure I find in books is more than just their contents. A well-made book should be a desirable object, and it seldom is that at titles proliferate and each year so publishers have been forced to take short cuts: paper and print quality decline, with cloth binding now a rarity. No literary editor can possibly read 10,000 books in a year, so one of the professional skills of the job is learning how to judge which books to send out for review. I have learnt to take refuge in Francis Bacon's observation that "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested".

Some books also choose themselves for review. It would be perverse of me to ignore, say, a new novel by Iris Murdoch, or to have denied the journalist in me by putting to one side Andrew Boyle's *The Climate of Fear*. But most satisfying of all is to discover quality for oneself—no advance fanfare, no lavish publicity on the free press circuit, but merely an author and his subject perfectly matched.

We have been most fortunate at *The Times* that it has been possible in the past several years to expand the coverage of books to match, in some way at least, the increase in titles published. Christmas and summer book supplements, monthly pages devoted to paperbacks, quarterly features on children's and business books, all help to keep the regular Thursday pages open for the works of imagination, of literature and of ideas. Expansion does not end there; next year in addition, it may even be possible to review a book a day.

What worries me most, however, is that of all the vast range of books published, the novel no longer seems to attract writers of talent in such numbers as it did. The more lucrative attractions of television, of journalism, of the theatre even, have dissipated the great English tradition for the writing of fiction.

There is, in fact, a market for it, a market for the writing of fiction. There is, in fact, a market for it, a market for the writing of fiction. There is, in fact, a market for it, a market for the writing of fiction.

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Delane was a superb political manipulator, wooed and welcomed in the gilded salons of both parliamentary parties, and fair for intelligent anticipation. To talk to Delane was like talking to the great political or social world itself, and politicians knew it.

His private correspondence in the paper's archives reads like a dream: Palmerston, Wellington, Gladstone, Derby, Disraeli, Peel, Dickens, Wilberforce, Rothschild, Florence Nightingale and a host of field marshals, viceroys, ambassadors, entrepreneurs and lady novelists.

Delane liked his dinner and his glass of wine, and "swelling" (his own word) in London society gave confidential access to him from the dinner table and grove moors, raw material for the leader writers.

It was the age, supremely, of the leading article, and to it was often put information which nowadays goes into the newspapers. Delane wrote very little himself, possibly no more than a dozen leaders in 36 years, but his revising pen was everywhere.

Independence of treatment by his leader writers he welcomed; provided they took the line he gave them. His formidable lions were kept in separate cages, and they knew very little about one another, their dealings being exclusively with the editor.

Unlike his predecessor Thomas Barnes, who wrote elegant Latin verse and a classical English style, Delane was neither learned nor distinctively literary. A plain man, not given to metaphysical speculation, he had no taste for the study to life outside of Printing House Square. *The Times* filled his vision, the dream and the duty.

If Delane detested anything it was poetry. When asked whether he was prepared to review Shelley, he shot back: "Excrement! Excrement!"

We do not know who Delane thought about organized sport, but an admission of "horror" over the Berkshire health-care Aldershot review or about the Whitbread downs following the autumn manoeuvres—last reports in *The Times*.

He died at his residence, Ascot Heath, Berkshire, only two years after retirement leaving the paper by his service with such distinction and devotion as an enduring epitaph.

Gordon Phillips

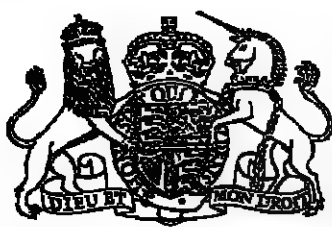
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The extraordinary power of Delane, editor supreme

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COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 30: The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor, today presided at the Ceremony for the Conferment of Higher Degrees at the University of Surrey.
Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

Mrs Lewis Dixon-Brown gave birth to a daughter in London on Tuesday, November 27.

A service in memory of Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis, of Farmington, Connecticut, will be held at St Margaret's, Westminster, on Monday, December 3, at 3 pm.

Birthdays today

Lord Cross of Chelsea, 73; Dame Alicia Markova, 69; Sir William Pile, 60; Dame Mildred Ridsdell, 66; Lord Rolf of Ipsden, 72; Sir Charles Marshall, 71; John Stacey, 56; Mr C. D. Squibb, 73.

TOMORROW: Sir Raphael Cilento, 66; Sir David Davies, 70; Dame Adelaide Douglas, 70; Sir John Edmondson, 87; Mr Ian Flinlay, 73; Sir Paul Grey, 71; Sir George Lambouche, 74.

Today's engagements

The century of Rubens and Rembrandt, British Museum, 10-5. Children's art, Guildhall, City. Exhibition commemorating David Garrick's Shakespeare jubilee in 1769, Bear Gardens Museum, Bankside, 11-4. Guild of Lakeland Craftsmen Christmas exhibition, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal. Charles Lamb Society, Molly LeFebvre on "Dear Sara (Mrs Coleridge)", Mary Coleridge, 2.45. Craft metalwork and jewelry exhibition, Guildhall, City. Concert, Salzburg Mozart Orchestra, Leeds Town Hall, 7.30. Plymouth Silver Band, South-west solo and quartet championships, Lower Guildhall, Plymouth, from 10. National club show, Grand Hall, Olympia, 10.30-5.30.

Tomorrow

The Prince of Wales attends memorial concert for Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Guildhall, Southampton, 7.30. National exhibition of cave and ivory birds, Alexandra Palace, 10-5.30. Auctions and collectors fair, Bulls Head Hotel, Royal Parade, Chislehurst, 11-5.30. Concert, Vienna Boys' Choir, Waldo, Haydn, Reger, Royal Albert Hall, 8. Concert recital by Hermann Frey, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 8. Walks: A Dickens' Christmas, meet St Paul's Underground station, 11. History of London, meet St Paul's Underground station, 2.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ALSO ON PAGES 7 and 8

ART GALLERIES

FAIRFAX GALLERY, 57-59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 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SPORT

Ice skating

Ms Garland in triple international arena

By John Hennessy

Susan Garland, a 13-year-old British figure skater, has announced yesterday for the Winter Olympic Games to be held at Lake Placid, New York State, from February 13 to 28. Miss Garland won the British pairs title, for the second time, with Robert Daw (15), earlier in the week at Richmond.

Young as she is, Miss Garland is not the youngest British competitor in the Games, nor indeed the youngest skater. That distinction, according to the publishers of the Guinness Book of Records, belongs to the renowned Cecilia Colledge, who competed in the 1932 Games (also at Lake Placid) at the age of 11.

The selection of Miss Garland as the "Daw" fulfils a life-long ambition of her trainer, Pauline Williams, Daw's stepmother. It was, she says, yesterday, in 1953, that she and her husband, a professional skater, began to produce an Olympic skater. Her young charges had been over the moon when they had their first selection.

She is not expecting any fireworks this season. "Where we come is not important," she says. "It's the experience that matters at this stage." But she believes that her stepson and Miss Garland are already good enough not to be languishing at the bottom of the results lists.

Pairs skating is virtually a lost art in Britain and one has to look back to 1953 to discover when the last world championship was held. The winners then were John and Jennifer Nicks, brother and sister, who were also the British champions. It is now John Nicks who trains the current holders of the world title, Tal Babilonia and Randy Gardner, in the United States. Miss Garland has been chosen for some time that Daw and his still younger partner



Young charges: Susan Garland and Robert Daw whose selection fulfils their trainer's life long ambition.

her would sooner or later be ready for international competition. The fear was that the selectors would lack the courage to pick them into the Olympic and world championships (Dortmund, March 11 to 15) this winter and settle for a gentler baptism in the European championships (Göteborg, January 22 to 26). They have in fact been chosen for all three events.

Only two men skaters have been chosen, Robin Cousins and Christopher Bowyer. Britain has not sent a third place but the selectors presumably have decided

that Andrew Bestwick, who finished third to the other two at Richmond, is not yet up to it. Karen Richardson, having recovered the women's title from Deborah Cottrill, is naturally rewarded with a place in all three championships. Miss Cottrill, however, has the chance to turn the tables yet again in the European because we can send two skaters. Whatever happens at Göteborg, Miss Cottrill can take comfort from the fact that at 17, she has done on her side. Miss Richardson is three years older.

Tennis

Miss Ruzici surprises Mrs King and herself

Madbourne, Nov 30 Billie Jean King and the defending champion, Dianne Fromholtz of Australia, were beaten in the quarter-final round of the Toyota tournament at Kooragang Island today. Mrs King, the favourite to win the tournament following the withdrawal of the seed Evonne Cawley, was beaten by the 17-year-old Romanian, Miss Ruzici, 6-3, 6-0.

Miss Ruzici now needs Wendy Turnbull in the semi-finals. Mrs King had to fight out a tough three-set match against Britain's Susan Barker to make the semi-finals. Miss Barker failed to hold service throughout the final set and lost her grip on the match. Miss Turnbull won 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Women's singles quarter-final round: V. Ruzici (Romania) beat L. King (USA) 6-3, 6-0. M. Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) beat D. Fromholtz (Australia) 6-3, 6-0. W. Turnbull (Australia) beat S. Barker (GB) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3. Agence France-Press.

McEnroe leads

New York, Nov 28—John McEnroe, with \$25,238 dollars, and Jimmy Connors, with \$24,248 dollars, lead the world men's tennis earnings for 1980, according to the United States Tennis Association. Jimmy Connors' earnings are based on his 1979 season, while McEnroe's are based on his 1980 season.

Golf

Graham leads Americans by two strokes

Wellington, Nov 30—David Graham, a 21-year-old New Zealand golfer, led in the New Zealand open championship at Heretaunga today with a second round of 67, four under par. With a 36 holes total of 137, he leads by two strokes over two Americans, Tom Kite, the overnight leader, and John Grady, who is a half sister. Kite took 72, one over par, today. Godwin had a 67 and Davis was round in 70.

Graham, holder of the United States PGA title, came out in 32, the best score of the day for the first nine on the way back he finished with a 35, a half sister where he had a birdie after topping his second shot.

Godwin, an early starter, missed most of the wind which troubled many of the golfers. He had seven birdies, but dropped shots at three holes.

Second round: 137 D. Graham, 138 J. Grady, 139 T. Kite, 140 J. Davis, 141 J. Grady, 142 J. Grady, 143 J. Grady, 144 J. Grady, 145 J. Grady, 146 J. Grady, 147 J. Grady, 148 J. Grady, 149 J. Grady, 150 J. Grady, 151 J. Grady, 152 J. Grady, 153 J. Grady, 154 J. Grady, 155 J. Grady, 156 J. Grady, 157 J. Grady, 158 J. Grady, 159 J. Grady, 160 J. Grady, 161 J. Grady, 162 J. Grady, 163 J. Grady, 164 J. Grady, 165 J. Grady, 166 J. Grady, 167 J. Grady, 168 J. Grady, 169 J. Grady, 170 J. Grady, 171 J. Grady, 172 J. Grady, 173 J. Grady, 174 J. Grady, 175 J. Grady, 176 J. Grady, 177 J. Grady, 178 J. Grady, 179 J. Grady, 180 J. Grady, 181 J. Grady, 182 J. Grady, 183 J. Grady, 184 J. Grady, 185 J. Grady, 186 J. Grady, 187 J. Grady, 188 J. Grady, 189 J. Grady, 190 J. Grady, 191 J. Grady, 192 J. Grady, 193 J. Grady, 194 J. Grady, 195 J. Grady, 196 J. Grady, 197 J. Grady, 198 J. Grady, 199 J. Grady, 200 J. Grady, 201 J. Grady, 202 J. Grady, 203 J. Grady, 204 J. Grady, 205 J. Grady, 206 J. 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Stock markets
Ind 4,207.7 down 2.2
Gilt 64.43 down 0.10

sterling
1985 up 1.65 cents
ex 69.9 up 0.3

Wlar
ex 86.2 down 0.1

Wld
5.75 an ounce up 56.75

month money
bank 15 11/16 to
5/16 to 14 7/16

N BRIT

as and nch is may ge

talks have started
a 49 per cent owned
associate, Thomson/
French aerospace com-
d Bronzavia, a French
equipment manu-
This follows Sir
Scott's message as
to Lucas share
in the annual report
this week that the group
larger foothold in
this year. Lucas won
an court battle for the
p of Duccellier, a
electrical motor com-
manipulator. Lucas
per cent of the com-
mand a £13m bid for
control, which was
by Ferodo and the
Bendix company sub-
DBA, which held the
r until its sale to
Lucas claimed suc-
cess. The French court
said the deal should
be.

lief delayed

ed mortgage interest
is available to bor-
rowers the new 15 per
cent comes into effect
next week but will not
be paid until the end
of the tax year. The
avenue, buy prepar-
ing the 1980-81 tax year,
be able to recode
s mortgage interest in

Sea oil output

October, the 12 fields
in the North Sea
an average of 1.61
barrels of oil a day,
less than the 1.57
barrels average in
r. The BP Forties field
its highest daily pro-
to date during the
x the average was cut
weather. The figures
nber will be affected
striction of gas flaring
toll/Esso Brent field.

Nord resigns

ard Coral, director in
casinos has resigned
cutive duties with the
sure Group after being
last week with con-
under the Gaming Act,
remain a non-executive.
He said that the
referred "allegations
met him.

: no reference

Electrical Industries
of EMI is not to be
to the Monopolies and
Commission. Mr John
memory for Trade, said
r, after although the
very large conglomer-
uld rank tenth in the
p 1,000 companies there
a very little horizontal
ation. As such there
no direct reduction in
ion. The Thorn offer
Tuesday.

module order

mot's platform con-
yard at Ardersier,
a, has won an firm
to build three produc-
duals for Shell Expro's
ormant oil production
work at the yard.
Employs about 1,500 men
in immediately. Comple-
in the spring of 1981.

Treasury draws up plans for further cuts in public spending

Plans for further cuts in public spending next year are now being drawn up by the Treasury. These cuts, if implemented, would come on top of those drawn up earlier this month when tight cash limits for local authorities spending in 1980-81 were announced. The Treasury is also hoping the Government's unpublished plans for next year will contain more cuts.

Ministers have made it clear that prospects for the economy and for public spending look bleak in the light of the recent monetary crisis.

They have suggested that they would be willing to look again at their spending plans if they believed that this were necessary to control public borrowing, and the money supply.

The Government is being forced to re-examine its decision to spend very little in 1980-81, a decision which was made in the White Paper containing next year's planned spending, in volume terms, was published only a month ago.

Two weeks later it became clear that the volume of spending was going to be squeezed by the application of tight cash limits. It is now possible that further cuts will be made in addition to the original plans.

These cuts could be achieved through the combination of a more severe cash limit on government departments, and the announced changes in programmes for local authorities and nationalised industries.

The Government has not yet set next year's cash limits for central government departments. It will probably do this next spring.

It may now decide to set them at a level even lower than would be consistent with the limits announced in the White Paper for local authorities and nationalised industries. These were based on an assumption that the general level of pay would rise by 14 per cent in this round. In fact pay rises are likely to be less than this.

If the central government tries to achieve lower increases in pay and prices departments will have to cut programmes.

Way opens for new monetary control after City studies

By David Blakes

Internal studies by officials at the Treasury and the Bank of England are believed to have come to the conclusion that if the authorities are to switch to control of the monetary base, the only workable scheme is one broadly along the lines proposed by Professor Brian Griffiths of the City University.

The authorities are known to have looked at a number of options, including proposals by Mr Gordon Pepper, and at the system adopted by the Swiss National Bank.

It is likely that the main outlines of the Griffiths scheme will be identified as the most fruitful path for investigation when the Government discusses its document on monetary control is published.

The main features of the scheme are that eligible reserve assets should be redefined so they only include notes and coins in the bank, plus deposits at the Bank of England. The existing reserve asset ratio rule could be abolished and the Bank of England would be free to control the monetary base.

A switch from the present system of controlling the money supply to focusing on the monetary base has been advocated by many monetarist economists. The money base is a much narrower definition of the supply than the indicators which the authorities presently try to manipulate. In practice, it forms

probably by more than 3 per cent.

Any attempt to change the financing of the Rate Support Grant and nationalised industries would be bound to cause confusion. Therefore, if the Government did decide to cut local spending, it would probably have to announce volume changes in programmes, rather than rely on "back door" cuts through cash limits.

The Government published its spending plans for 1980-81 early this year, outlining the amounts available for the Rate Support Grant and nationalised industry borrowing. It may be regretting this decision as its view of the desirable level of spending for next year has changed.

Publication of the next public spending White Paper, which will contain plans for the years 1981-82 to 1983-84, is almost certain to be delayed. It was originally planned for the beginning of January, but some time in late February or even March is now more likely. This reflects the difficulty ministers have had in reaching a decision.

A wealth of economic detail used to be included in the public spending White Papers, but this is now likely to be omitted.

There were some complaints about the lack of economic information in the small White Paper for 1980-81 published earlier this month and the expectation was that this would be included in the next one.

However, it seems clear that the Government will put off the decision about how much of its medium-term assessment to publish until after the White Paper on spending.

This will either be included in the medium-term financial plan, if there is one, or will be mentioned in the spending review. The trend in recent years, strongly supported by the old Commons Expenditure Sub-committee (now replaced by the Treasury Committee) was to give more and more rather than less and less detail of the Government's view of the economy which lay behind its spending plans.

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Brokers abandon plans for merger

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

Proposals for merging Grievson Grant and J & M Scrimgeour, two prominent stockbroking firms, have foundered—only two weeks after talks began.

The idea had been promoted as the largest amalgamation of its kind so far, but its failure reflected the stockbroking community's gloomy outlook for the early 1980s.

Scrimgeour and Grievson said they were seizing the chance to merge while they were in a strong position, rather than risk being forced to take heavy action later by a level of business, spiralling costs and the uncertainties over the future of the Stock Exchange cartel.

But in the end key employees of both firms reacted so strongly against the idea of the link and the redundancies which they feared might follow, that the board of Scrimgeour and the board of Grievson decided to call off the idea.

An official statement said that "after detailed discussions the process of integrating the two businesses has proved more difficult than was at first anticipated."

Nevertheless there was surprise that the talks have been broken off so soon after merger proposals were announced, even though both parties admitted at the outset that there could be difficulties during the negotiations.

These problems were expected to arise over the integration and accounting complications of merging one of the few corporate stockbroking



Mr Andrew Rutherford, senior partner of Grievson Grant (left) and Mr Hugh Ross, chairman of J & M Scrimgeour.

firms, Scrimgeour, with a partnership, such as Grievson. Neither party has any doubt, however, that, had the merger succeeded, a new partnership would have been formed because Scrimgeour, like other Stock Exchange firms (notably the leading stockbrokers, Wedd Durbacher, Mordaunt which formed itself into a company and then reverted back to a partnership) had already acknowledged that new taxation levels gave great incentive to employees of a partnership.

However, the discussions never reached this stage. Mr Dick Allen, finance director of Scrimgeour, said last night: "We went into the discussions with Grievson believing we could form a stronger, bigger and more competitive firm, and we found that there were more problems than we realised."

In some important areas a completely different approach was apparent. In institutional research, for example, Scrimgeour's approach is highly sophisticated while that of Grievson is more broadly spread and general. At first sight it looked as though the two firms were compatible, but it became clear that they were in fact trying to serve two entirely different types of institutional client.

The merger idea, which followed shortly after the successful link-up of Joseph Sebag and W. I. Carr, had been suggested by Scrimgeour by Grievson. Scrimgeour, faced with the relative problems created by its corporate status and thinking like Grievson, that if the idea of a merger appealed, the time to do it was now rather than later, agreed to negotiations.

These were disclosed at an early stage to avoid unnecessary rumour in the stock market, but when the full force of the proposals became clear to the employees of both firms, strong opposition emerged against going ahead.

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One particular difficulty would have been merging the settlement departments of the two firms. Grievson's is at Tunbridge Wells, a sophisticated company with a young staff. Scrimgeour's settlement systems are rather more traditional, with an older and more experienced staff. It became clear that there were fundamental differences in approach between the two.

It was Grievson who actually decided to call the talks off, although by that time it was already clear to both firms that the merger proposals had foundered. Nevertheless, Mr John Brew, a senior partner of Grievson, said that his firm was still attracted by the idea of merging with someone, and discussions were possible in the future.

For its part Scrimgeour may now debate once again whether it should disband its corporate status and revert to a partnership.

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BNOC chief Mr Utiger takes on dual role

By Nicholas Hirst

Mr Ronald Utiger has taken over as chief executive of the state-owned British National Oil Corporation, in succession to Lord Kearton.

Lord Kearton, who resigned a month ago, was replaced immediately by Mr Utiger as temporary chairman for a period expected to be six to eight months. At the time Mr Utiger said he would take a month to decide who should be appointed Chief Executive.

His decision effectively to appoint himself means that the long-term leadership of the BNOC has not been decided and must wait until the restructuring ordered by the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr David Howell, has been completed.

It was expected that the post of chairman and chief executive would be separated once Lord Kearton had left. It looked most unlikely that Mr Utiger, who retains the chairmanship of British Aluminium Company, where he has executive responsibilities, would wish to take on BNOC, particularly as his appointment was only temporary.

Lord Kearton had pushed strongly for Mr Alastair Morton, a former member of the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, a creation of the

1964 Wilson Government, and a managing director of BNOC to take over as chief executive. Mr Morton was responsible for both the raising of \$825m from American banks in 1977, which caused a storm in the House of Commons public accounts committee because it fell outside parliamentary control and for the more recent decision to raise £500m for the public sector borrowing requirement through a short-term forward oil sale.

It had been thought that he would leave with Lord Kearton if he failed to get the chief executive's job. The Department of Energy, however, was known to prefer that someone else should get the job.

The temporary appointment of Mr Utiger is explained on the grounds that during a transitional period it is sensible to have a transitional chairman. The Secretary of State, who effectively controls the appointment, has told Parliament he is going to create a North Sea company of exploration and production activities from the present BNOC, in which the public may invest.

Fierce arguments continue as to how this might be done. Lord Kearton has always fought strongly for BNOC to remain as one company, even if investment were to be allowed in a North Sea subsidiary. Within the Government, however, there have been suggestions that the oil trading and exploration activities should be split.

The eventual choice of chief executive will depend on whether it is one company or two, and what form these companies take.

In the meantime, Mr Morton, who was one of a triumvirate managing directors, has been appointed chairman of BNOC Trading, and Mr Ian Clarke, the former chief executive of the Shetland Council, is to be chairman of BNOC Ventures, the company which is in charge of North Sea activities where BNOC is not the operator. Mr Morton has also gained broader management functions.

Mr Ronald Utiger: temporary chairman and now chief executive at BNOC.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Sterling deposit funds

Waiting for the clouds to clear over the Channel Islands

A grey cloud has settled over the Channel Isles-based sterling deposit funds due to recent Inland Revenue interest in their taxation arrangements.

But what is worrying some fund managers is not just the threat of a Revenue attack itself but the length of time it could take to disperse this cloud. A definite outcome is needed one way or the other.

So far this problem only directly concerns two of the oldest and largest of the dozen or so funds now offered—the majority of which have been launched this year. Indirectly, of course, the situation affects the whole industry which now accounts for some £230m.

Managers of both the £34m Keyser Ullmann Central Assets fund and the £42m Sterling Reserve fund, which stands at £70m, were informed three weeks ago that the Revenue was considering the possible application of section 478 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970, to the funds.

This section deals with provisions to prevent individuals from avoiding income tax by transferring assets abroad. It is distinct from section 460 which gives the Revenue power to tax an artificial capital gain as income, from which this type of fund has been given clearance.

Designed primarily for individuals or companies who have a future known liability or liquidity reserves, these funds offer a high degree of capital security by investing in short-dated sterling—de-

nominated securities such as Treasury Bills, Bills of Exchange, Certificates of Deposit and Local Authority Bonds. Although the funds are generally prepared to hold securities with a maximum life of a year, at present they are invested much shorter with average maturity of three months or less.

With low minimum investments—often £1,000 or less—a small investor can benefit from "wholesale" money market interest rates to which he is generally denied access. The cost of this professional money management varies from fund to fund but the maximum is 1 per cent pa of the value of his investment.

The investor also has easy access to his money. The maximum notice needed to redeem the shares is seven days.

But whatever the investment advantages of these funds, the main attraction as they stand, must be the tax position. The funds take their returns mainly in the form of capital gains—dividend yields amount to less than 1 per cent and so effectively transform corporation tax or income tax liability into a lower capital gains tax liability for the investor.

But now that the Revenue has turned its attention to this tax arrangement managers generally feel that it is unlikely to give these funds its blessing by taking no action at all.

It may, therefore, rule that individual investors have a liability to income tax on their returns under section 478. This does not concern corporate investors as this section does not apply to companies. If such a ruling is made, Keyser Ullmann feels the investor has "good grounds" to win an appeal, a view endorsed by other fund managers in the field.

Alternatively a clause could be introduced in the next Finance Bill which would effectively put an end to the tax advantages offered by these funds. Either way, it seems likely that it could be several months before the position becomes clear.

The question of whether these tax advantages will still be available in the future and the time it is likely to take to answer it, leaves the investor in a no-man's-land. Fund managers can do no more than make sure both existing and potential investors are aware of the situation and leave them to make up their own minds about the likely outcome.

Both Keyser and Ullmann and Lazard have experienced above average withdrawals in the last few weeks. This does not mean that these investors are home and dry as section 478 could be applied retrospectively. However, managers generally feel that this is unlikely if only because of the administrative involvement.

Before redeeming their shares, investors should consider the worst that could happen in the event of the Revenue successfully putting an end to the tax advantages on these schemes. At worst the individual is exposing himself to the risk of having to pay the tax he would have had to pay anyway if he invested in an income producing asset at home.

If the alternative merely means putting the money on deposit at the local bank they are unlikely to be any worse off than leaving the cash where it is. But for those prepared to commit their money for a longer term, for instance a year and a day to take advantage of the capital gains tax concessions or a one-year guaranteed income bond, might be a better alternative.

Sally Michael

Sterling deposit funds based in the Channel Isles

Fund	Launch date	Size	Minimum investment	Recent price
Arbuthnot Sterling Fund	Sept 79	£2m	None	£10.21
Bricknell Capital Deposit	Sept 79	£3m	£2,000	£10.18
Brown Shipley Sterling Capital	Sept 79	£9m	£2,000	£10.18
English Association Sterling	Aug 78	£9m	£2,000	£10.18
Hamro's Capital Reserve	Feb 79	£22m	£1,000	£10.82
Lazard's Sterling Reserve	Nov 78	£70m	None	£10.82
Leopold Joseph Sterling	May 79	£5m	100 shares	£10.85
Keyser Ullmann Central Assets	April 75	£34m	£5,000	£154.72
Kleinwort Benson Sterling Asset	Aug. 79	£6m	£1,000	£10.27
Morgan Grenfell Overseas	July 79	£3m	£1,000	£10.84
Rothschild Old Court Sterling	July 79	£35m	£1,000	£10.85
Save & Prosper Sterling Deposit	July 78	£26m	£1,000	£112.01
S.G. Warb's Mercury Money Mt	Sept 78	£10m	100 shares	£11.32

Round-up

Abbey Unit Trust Managers is in the vanguard of unit trust groups which have entered the international bond market. Its new International Bond Trust launched yesterday will initially concentrate on Deutschmark bonds and deposits and United States dollars with sterling held only for liquidity purposes.

The minimum investment is £1,000 and as the income is unranked for corporation tax purposes and therefore taxed within the fund the yield is an estimated modest 5.5 per cent.

The index is included in a new edition of the BIA's leaflet *A Guide to Buildings Insurance for the Home Owner* which lists 156 separate rebuilding costs according to size and type of property. The figures are on a pound-per-square-foot basis, and the BIA emphasises that homes should be reinsured for rebuilding cost, not the market value—which may be different.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Pensions

Small company self-administration schemes

They didn't have pretty girls draped over motor cars at the Wembley annual Life Insurance Congress this week, but it is still one of the great parties for the life insurance industry and a time for unveiling new models.

The fashion this year has been for the small self-administered pension scheme for directors of close companies, a concept which only really got off the ground in February.

Small self-administered pension schemes work on the principle that rather than making conventional executive pension plan arrangements with a conventional life office contract, directors should be able to control their own pension prospects and at the same time do their company a good turn too.

The key provision is that up to 50 per cent of the self-administered fund can be self-invested, that is ploughed back into the company. This is frowned upon for the standard occupational pension plan for company employees because of the possible risk to small firms for a small company built up and owned by directors, the advantages outweigh the risks.

The advantages are that the directors' pension contributions are offset against corporation tax at 52 per cent or otherwise, if the director wishes he can make it a contributory scheme and have 15 per cent of the contribution eligible for tax relief at his top earned income rate, a maximum now of 60 per cent.

Up to half of that premium, the SFO has ruled, can be self-invested through the medium of a commercial loan to the company. Although the pension industry, about which rumours that loans have not been used for such worthy purposes as plant or machinery but have been translated into yachts, racetracks and villas for the directors, the rules appear to be apocryphal.

There are a few tricky little points about loans which need to be clarified. The directors themselves act as trustees to the self-administered fund. One set of rules decrees that director-sponsored loans to a company should not exceed 12 per cent, (the interest rate seems to have been trapped in time) while another specifically for such funds, says that the loans must be at a commercial rate, at present nearer to 20 per cent.

The simplest solution is for the director-trustee to range before a loan is made.

To stop such schemes becoming a tax-rewarding toy for directors, the SFO has insisted upon an independent trustee going under the title of "pension officer" trustee. His job is to see that the directors do not arbitrarily and prematurely

wind up the pension scheme for their own excessive (in the tax-man's eye) benefit.

Clearly the origins of self-administered schemes were opportunistic. Nowadays, the scheme edge of excitement has been trimmed—but without destroying too many of the advantages for directors and their families of small private companies.

This has been recognized by the insurance industry, now much quicker off the mark than it ever used to be in recognizing and acting upon a good idea.

This week Sun Life and Macdonald Lawsons joined the ranks of insurance companies willing to operate self-administered pension schemes. Legal and General, Scottish Equitable, Hansgro Life and Crown Life are in the market already.

In return for having half the premium (varying between £5,000 and £10,000) invested through own pension fund con-

tracts, all the insurance companies provide pension administration. Because of income tax relief for paying half of the premium, the establishment are negligible or even nonexistent.

Some directors will like security of having half the premium invested in an insured scheme. Others feel that people actually given the job of managing their own money back out of the responsibility.

However, for those who are happy with their own pension advisers, self-administered schemes operated by brokers such as Richards, L. Staff, Poinson York, Towry and Stenhouse, designed to run in cooperation with existing advisers, should be considered.

The springing costs are generally higher, but this may or may not be true.

John Drummond

Children

Get the timing right with maternity allowance

There has been much pressure of late for an increase in the maternity grant, the lump sum payment of £25 that is claimed by women having babies, but they have another benefit when they have another.

They would be advised to check very carefully. The chances are that many will be able to claim the full amount the second time around even if they have a second child in the first year. And since the money involved is a maximum payment of nearly £35 a week tax-free for a total of 18 weeks it is clearly worth taking a little trouble to check on your individual situation.

Payment of the maternity allowance and earnings related benefit depends on having made enough contributions in what is termed the relevant tax year. This can actually be two or three calendar years after the one in which you have the baby.

Women having their first babies will qualify on their own record and if they work up to within two or three months of the birth they may well have clocked up sufficient contributions in that tax year to entitle them to maternity allowances at any stage in the second year or three years as well.

Take, as an example, someone who had her first baby in October, 1977. If she was working she would claim the allowance on her contribution record. She would leave the baby in the middle of the 1977-1978 tax year.

In normal circumstances she also would have built up sufficient contributions before she left work to entitle her to the benefit for any babies she might

have in the next 24 years—right up to March, 1980 in fact. She would certainly get the flat rate benefit of £18.50 a week and she might get paid or all of the earnings-related element on top of that.

But whether it is your first or second baby it is important to claim at the right time otherwise you might miss out on one or more weeks' pay. The £25 maternity grant can be claimed 11 weeks before or three months after the birth. If you have not been working you can claim it on your husband's contribution.

The allowance is paid for 18 weeks starting 11 weeks before the birth. You apply in the fourteenth week before the date shown on the confinement certificate given to you by your doctor or your clinic. If you are late in applying you cannot

regain lost weeks and weekly payments cannot be backdated. But if it is the case that it is late you will be able to obtain extra weekly payments if you have enough energy at this stage to apply.

Michael William

AMC

Announcement

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited announces that with effect from 1st December 1979 the rate of interest for

ALL EXISTING VARIABLE RATE LOANS

will be

19 1/4%

This rate will remain in force until the next review date which will be: (a) 1st MARCH 1980—for borrowers whose loans are renewable quarterly; (b) 1st JUNE 1980—for borrowers whose loans are renewable half-yearly.

Until further notice, the rate of interest which will apply to

NEW VARIABLE RATE LOANS

will be

19 1/4%

For full details of this and other facilities please contact AMC, Bucklersbury House, 3 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4N 3DU. Tel.: 01-236 5252

GUS

THE GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES LIMITED



Profits before tax increase by over 20%

Sir Isaac Wolfson, Bart., Chairman.

The following are extracts from the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1979.

Turnover, Profits and Dividends

Increased turnover and profits were again achieved. SAP 15 earnings per stock unit increased from 28.15p to 36.90p. Total dividends for the year amounted to 10.5p per stock unit compared with 8.24875p and are covered over 3.5 times.

Review of the Year

Catalogue mail order continued to progress both in the UK and in Europe. As a market leader, we are hopeful as to the future development of these interests. Our other retail interests in the UK and overseas also had

a satisfactory year. The finance division achieved a useful increase in its profits.

Strength of the Balance Sheet

Ordinary stockholders' funds, including the surplus over book values of over £250 million disclosed by the recent professional property revaluation, amounted to some £800 million.

The Future

Our major trading activities are in good shape; turnover and earnings (unaudited) for the first five months are ahead of last year.

Comparative figures to 31st March	1975 £000s	1976 £000s	1977 £000s	1978 £000s	1979 £000s
Turnover (including VAT)	803,694	931,380	1,087,557	1,240,867	1,436,677
Group profit before taxation	89,043	98,349	112,292	128,102	165,365
Taxation (including deferred taxation)	40,941	44,207	49,211	58,021	63,541
Cash flow	44,613	48,772	54,768	62,284	83,477
Net current assets	270,771	315,116	368,524	402,552	439,815
Ordinary stockholders funds	343,554	389,309	442,457	490,113	506,148

*Excluding surplus of £250m on professional valuation of UK properties and provisions for deferred profit of £112m. GUS operates some 2,500 Mail Order, Retail and Industrial Establishments in the UK and Overseas.

Credit

Barclaycard is raising its monthly rate of interest from 2 to 2.25 per cent following the general rise in money costs recently. This is equivalent to an annual rate, with interest to be calculated on daily balances from next February, of 30.6 per cent.

Access is bound to follow sometime over the next week. It cannot be long, either before the credit cards operated by stores fall into line although with the poor state of the retail trade at present it may be worth keeping an eye open for those stores that may decide to hold their credit rates to keep customers.

Lloyds Bank also announced an increase in its personal loan rates from 10 to 11 per cent flat, which is the equivalent of a two point increase to 21.6 per cent for the effective interest on a one-year loan.

Bank charges at Yorkshire Bank are to go up from today. For those not maintaining £50 in their current account, debit entries rise from 9p to 14p.

I would find it very helpful if you could give me the names of companies who are prepared, having the necessary experience to take on the actuarial risk, to insure people who suffer from (1) diabetes, (2) hypertension, (3) obesity. I have for long known there are companies with the necessary experience to take these risks but never in 27 years of practice have I found brokers in this area of any practical help in guiding my patients to these companies. They have been accepted at an early stage of the retail trade and have no knowledge that they might have done better with another company who being more sure of the risk might have given the patient cheaper terms (JPC, Essex, Anglia).

The widely acknowledged leader among the insurance companies which is prepared to offer sympathetic terms to impaired lives is Sun Life Assurance Society, 107 Cheapside, London, EC2.

While in hospital my uncle showed me a letter addressed to him from a lady requesting him to draw up an amendment to his will so as to provide my daughter with a legacy when the time came for her to go to university. Since his death he had been running argument with his solicitors as to why the will was never changed. The only conclusion I can come to is that the letter was misfiled and I am sure it was sent. If and when the letter does turn up can my daughter claim her legacy? (CG, Chelsea).

Unfortunately, this letter would not of itself operate to change the will unless it was signed and attested by two witnesses. Only then would it amount to a codicil. If it has been lost your affidavit to this effect would establish the legacy for purposes of probate.

However, even if the letter was not witnessed, but was merely a request to his solicitors to prepare a new will, your daughter may be helped by a recent decision concerning solicitors' liability for negligence. If it can be proved that the letter was received but misplaced in their office, then they would be regarded as negligent in law.

In a similar case, a disappointed relative who was intended to be a beneficiary was compensated for not getting the benefit under the will which he would have received if the solicitor had carried out the testator's request. If your daughter makes a written claim to the solicitors on the ground of negligence they will forward it to the Law Society Insurance Scheme, which will pay out the money to her if her claim is justified.

As a salesperson, I am completely dependent on my car. The greater part of my income con-

Insuring the sick • Changing a will



This specialist readers service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma and Ronald Irving.

sists of commission. Owing to a period of ill health my income dropped drastically and I was unable to pay a repair bill of £400. Apparently, sympathising with my situation, the garage proprietor told me that he would accept £340 in settlement.

I managed to borrow this sum from my brother in law and paid it in cash, but the garage refused to release my car. He told me that the proprietor had changed his mind and insisted on full payment as he did not see why he should make a loss on my account. Moreover, he threatened to charge me the cost of garaging the vehicle if I delayed. I needed the car and had no alternative but to go back to my brother-in-law and borrow the balance. Admittedly, my misfortunes are no concern of the garage proprietor, but surely once someone agrees on the settlement of a debt he is not entitled in law to renege, or is he? (DJG, Exeter).

The garage proprietor is partly in the right and partly in the wrong. Unfortunately for you, he is correct in insisting on full payment, even though he had originally agreed to accept a smaller sum.

The rule that acceptance of a smaller sum is binding on the creditor is a large debt, only applies if there is some sort of dispute—for example, if you were claiming that the repair work was unsatisfactory.

On the other hand, his threat to charge you for garaging the vehicle is not justifiable in law because the cost of storage cannot be claimed where the car is exercising its right to remain the goods until his repair bill is paid.

Some months ago I bought a radio in response to a mail order advertisement. It worked perfectly for a time and then, inexplicably stopped. I wrote a strong letter of complaint and got someone in my office who lives near the warehouse to take it back. To my delight he was issued a brand new radio. But that is not the end of the story. Within two weeks a second replacement radio arrived by

post. It also works perfectly. Morally I agree I ought to send one back but my colleague who is studying law says that I can regard it as an unsolicited gift and that it becomes mine after six months. My wife says that it would be unethical to keep both. Could you advise me on the exact "legal" position. Would it make any difference if I pass the other radio on to a relative as a Christmas gift? (LW, Manchester).

Your wife is right and your colleague is wrong. The second radio would not be covered by the Unsolicited Goods Act since the sender never intended to induce you to purchase it. It was clearly sent by mistake. Moreover, your wife is right in advising you that you cannot profit by their mistake.

Once you decide to appropriate the second radio (particularly if you intend to assume ownership by making a gift of it to your relative) you will be committing an offence under the Theft Act.

You are not legally obliged to return the radio but you should write to them at once informing them of their mistake and inviting them to collect it. This will establish that you do not intend to act dishonestly. You could also add that unless they arrange to collect it within a specified period, say one month, you will regard their ownership as abandoned.

Such a letter would prevent them making a criminal accusation against you. It might also make it difficult for them to succeed in civil proceedings, if they delay unduly.

APPLICATION FOR UNITS

To: Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC4M 3NQ. (Telephone: 01-663 5183).

I wish to purchase:

Units in American and General Fund (minimum 500)

at the price ruling on the next valuation day (Mondays) on or after my contract. Do not send any money with this application. We shall send you a contract once stating the exact amount you should pay.

SURNAME (Please include initials or title)

FULL FORENAMES

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

01-275 9161

FRAMLINGTON

Investing in North America

Framlington have two unit trusts investing exclusively in North American shares.

The American and General Fund aims to achieve above average performance by investing in a broad but carefully selected selection of smaller companies with good records of success.

The American Turnaround Fund is more specialised. It aims for maximum capital growth by investing in turnaround situations, choosing companies which have fallen on hard times but which are showing signs of recovery.

Both funds are suitable for investors wishing to benefit from the abolition of exchange control regulations. In the opinion of the managers Wall Street is at present undervalued; there is sound scope for investment in both of the sectors in which the funds specialise.

Investors are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Investment in a unit trust should be regarded as long term. To invest, telephone Framlington on Monday, at 01-663 5183; or use the coupon.

Do not send any money; units are allocated at the price ruling on the next valuation day (Mondays) on or after you receive your order. You will then be sent a contract stating exactly how much you should pay.

At last Monday's valuation the offer price of American & General Fund was 50.4p (estimated gross yield 4.4%) and of American Turnaround Fund 42.4p (est. gross yield 2.0%). Investors are warned that next Monday's valuation may be higher.

General Information. Net income, after deduction of basic rate tax, will be distributed to unit holders on 15th August (American Fund) or 15th October (American & General Fund). The offer price includes an initial charge of 5%. There is no charge of 5% + VAT. Units can be bought and sold every Monday unless a public holiday. Public and private sales are featured in most leading newspapers. The funds are authorised unit trusts constituted by Trust Deeds. Confirmation of units is paid to recognised agents. The trust assets are wider range investments than the Trustee Investment Act, 1966. The Trustee is Lloyd's Bank Limited. The Managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC4M 3NQ (Reg. in London Reg. 2414) Member of the Unit Trust Association. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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FULL FORENAMES

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

01-275 9161

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Index dips as technical rally fades out

After a bright start yesterday shares suddenly took flight and finished the second leg of this three week account on a rather depressed note.

Oils continued to attract most attention, but it was the news that Ivory and Sime's had led off its stake in Lasmo, with a placing arranged by Cazenove, which started the market on its downward trek.

Further news that Mexico had barred the Shah of Iran from entering the country and reports that all was not going well on the pay front with the miners continued to add fuel to the fire.

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HOUSE

at takeover battle is brewing in Rothschild Investment Trust Britannia Arrow for merchant's Dawson Day, best known for target unit and unit-linked insurance subsidiaries.

Part from the shareholders of the companies, other parties are ed—namely 150,000 Target Life Assurance policyholders and 85,000 others and the 220,000 units whose funds are managed by the Arrow.

Shareholders and policyholders from the other hand, may to the proposed Britannia Arrow Dawson Day.

There is little evidence that trust mergers work to the unit-holders—many tend to risk their feet and keep the unit

fund in a net repurchase position which means pricing it on the low bid price basis.

Second, Britannia unit-holders have surely had enough? It is a group which has put together over nine years, Hodge, Oceanic, National, Jessel and finally Slater Walker funds. Apart from the problems of having been a SW subsidiary, the group has only within the last three years reorganized by reducing, through merger, the numbers of funds from 44 to 23.

So why add another 18-odd and start the time and management consuming exercise all over again? If a life assurance trust is needed, there is already a Britannia vehicle available; it should be used.

Dawson Day investors might feel dismayed for similar reasons and they

could end up swapping a well-tried management group, which appears to be setting the performance right now, for one which is, for all practical purposes, little more than a year old and hence short of a track record.

The only recourse open to policy-holders is to appeal to the board of Target Life. Unit-holders have no rights either, but they can bombard the trustees of their individual fund to say "No" on their behalf.

It would be constructive to mobilize your fellow unit-holders or policy-holders. Unfortunately, and here comes the grouse, not even essential information, such as names and addresses, is available to them, other than as a paid-for courtesy. The path of unit-holder militancy is hard.

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ter Wainwright

DARTMOOR
BUILDING
SOCIETY

Foot in the door for Gloria

The news that a building society has been to the City to tap the wholesale money markets for its home loans and that the Government is setting up an inquiry into ways of overcoming the shortage of housing finance has not gone unnoticed in Sticklepath, West Country beauty spot and home of Allied Elderberry Wines.

This fact is evidenced by the following correspondence between: Lieutenant Colonel Rudolph Grog-Bevington, visionary and chairman of the society, and Reginald Pluckin, capitalist running dog of the Dartmoor Building Society.

"Dear Mr Pluckin, You will undoubtedly be aware of the present difficulty facing your movement in raising money for housing finance. It occurred to me that you might well be in a similar position to my friend, Lord Frite, chairman of the Great Rockall and District Building Society, with whom I have recently come to an arrangement similar to the one which I am now proposing to you.

The Allied Elderberry Wines Staff Pension Fund, due to last year's decision to increase members' contributions and to the advantageous sale of film nominal of 1902 Chinese Railway Bonds, after the recent visit of Chairman Frite, is in a healthy liquid state. As chairman of the Trustees I suggest, that the fund deposit with you the sum of £100,000 at a guaranteed rate of 16 1/2 per cent for five years, subject to agreement being reached between us on another little matter. This other matter concerns my personal assistant, Miss Gloria Darling-Friend, who requires a mortgage of £25,000 for 40 years at a rate of 2 1/2

per cent per annum on "Elderberry Cottage", Sticklepath. I would be glad to have your reactions in principle to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,
Rudolph Grog-Bevington.

"Dear Col Grog-Bevington, I was most interested to receive your letter. Am I right in supposing that your friend in question is the Lord Frite of Cricklowood, also chairman of the Great Rockall and District Consolidated Trust and member of the Council of BILGE (British Industrial League for Gainful Endeavour)? His, of course, is a name I have known for many years.

To turn to the other little matter, it is my full and frank opinion that the sum of £100,000 falls somewhat shorter than our expectations of what such an arrangement as you suggest might square up. If the Trustees felt constrained to deposit the sum of £200,000 on the terms set forth in your communication, we feel that it would be possible to see our way to our request, subject to the property concerned being surveyed as satisfactory by a firm of chartered surveyors.

Yours sincerely,
Reginald Pluckin.

"Dear Mr Pluckin, After consulting with the pension fund's auditors, Messrs Delve, Delve, Deffense and the accountants, Messrs Bluster, Muster, McOgle, Half-Staggers & Co, it has been decided by the Trustees that the figure of £200,000 should be deposited with you on the agreed terms, but with one additional proviso. This is that a mortgage of £10,000 on the same conditions should be granted to my head-keeper Uriah Stout in respect

of "The Pheasant Hut", Forty-Acre Wood, Elderberry Towers, since he will shortly find himself moving out of "Elderberry Cottage" to make way for Miss Darling-Friend.

It would be particularly appreciated if you would agree to this request, since Stout will be sharing his new habitation with his cousin Silas Cramp-whistle who also one of our Trustees. The surveys you require will be carried out at once by our chartered surveyors, Delve, Delve, Bluster, Muster.

Yours sincerely,
Rudolph Grog-Bevington.

"Dear Col Grog-Bevington, I am pleased to accede to your request for mortgage facilities in respect of Miss Gloria Darling-Friend and Mr Uriah Stout in accordance with the arrangement agreed between us, and warmly anticipate your pension fund's cheque for £200,000 once the formalities with regard to the two mortgages have been completed. After this mutually advantageous enterprise, it occurs to me to bring forward to your attention the fact that the world is full of mutually advantageous enterprises ripe, as you might say, for the plucking. I am in the course of formulating one such which I am confident will entail a rich and rewarding business relationship between us, and about which I will write again soon.

Yours sincerely,
Reginald Pluckin.

P.S. Your gift of a case of Raisin-and-Parsnip 1927 is greatly appreciated.

Don't miss the next thrilling instalment of everyday financial folk.

Francis Kinsman

Ball-bearing business is thought to be picking up at Ransome Hoffman Prollers, now increasingly known for electrical equipment. Soon it will report on the year to September and an increase in pre-tax profits from £12.5m to at least £25m seems likely. The shares are 63p.

After starting the day with a 3.0 rise at 10 am the FT Index went on to be 2.3 down before finally closing at 420.2. A net gain on the week of 13.7.

Speculation that the new Treasury 15 per cent 1985 stock would be in demand proved wrong and very little interest was shown. Among companies reporting Sangers dipped 7p to 58p while disappointing interim figures left Scapa 2p lower at 78p and 119p. Motors continued to attract interest from Brady Industries save the ordinary shares a 3p fillip while the "A" advanced 3p to 51p. A placing of 1.3m shares in EML a couple

Company	Sales
Alpine Drinks (I)	19,011 (22.29)
Alpine Drinks (F)	7,691 (6.7)
Brady Industries (I)	9,798 (8.2)
Delfin (I)	2,391 (1.87)
Downs Surgical (I)	2,401 (5.36)
Downs Surgical (F)	6,576 (7.6)
Dunlop & Co (F)	1,000 (1.0)
Humphries Holdings (I)	5,551 (5.43)
Leaderflush (I)	0,910 (0.9)
Sangers Group (I)	33,184 (49.03)
Sangers Group (F)	35,191 (35.58)
Stratton (I)	6,351 (3.8)
Tomkinsons Crisps (F)	13,091 (11.37)
UKO Int (I)	23,122 (2.2)
Westpool Int (I)	1,000 (1.0)

Latest results

Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	per share	pence	date	total
0.25 (0.84)	—	—	—	—
0.41 (0.92)	6.92 (1.65)	2.41 (2.41)	24.1	— (3.66)
0.10 (0.17)	1.34 (3.79)	9.59 (3.1)	28/12	9.59 (3.1)
0.18 (0.004)	2.31	1.51	16.1	— (3.0)
0.04 (0.02)	—	—	—	—
0.44 (0.36)	18.61 (18.1)	2.21 (7.7)	—	— (5.49)
0.51 (0.61)	2.52 (3.31)	0.81 (0.8)	5.4	— (1.22)
0.89 (0.71)	—	2.41 (7.7)	25.1	3.4 (2.6)
0.47 (0.21)	—	—	—	—
0.07 (0.02)	6.24 (4.73)	4.41	28/12	4.41
0.05 (0.1)	—	—	—	—
0.67 (1.0)	2.91 (4.6)	1.81 (1.8)	21/1	— (1.38)
3.42 (5.32)	6.51 (5.3)	2.81 (2.7)	25.1	— (1.65)
0.38 (0.24)	2.40 (11.1)	—	—	—
0.07 (0.4)	2.61 (4.4)	2.01 (4.1)	—	2.01 (4.1)
1.41 (1.7)	—	3.21 (3.2)	12.2	— (1.68)
0.60 (1.58)	6.81 (28.5)	3.21 (3.2)	28/12	3.21 (3.2)
0.36 (0.49)	—	1.41 (1.4)	—	— (3.8)

Sangers group slumps 40 pc

The breakdown in resale price maintenance in the wholesale pharmaceutical industry has hit profits in the Sangers Group, the chemists, optics and pharmaceuticals, Sangers group have slumped 40 per cent from £1,008m to £600,000 in the half year August 31, 1979.

Reporting the disappointing results the new Chairman Mr

George Robinson says that the collapse of the resale price maintenance has been so sudden and severe that the increased profits from the optics division has not been large enough to counter the downturn.

Mr Robinson points out that the major breakdown in profits on the pharmaceutical division

came through in the second quarter of the current year and the full impact will be felt in the second half.

Despite the problems in pharmaceuticals, Sangers managed to push sales ahead by 8.6 per cent during the period under review. Turnover for the group increased from £33,681m to £36,59m.

Fire hits David Dixon, but profit up

David Dixon, the Yorkshire-based woollen cloth manufacturer which has made a £2.5m bid for Mountfort (Knitwear), said that the loss of production had cost about £500,000. Profits were also affected by production difficulties during the first half, with new machinery problems contributing to less-than-expected growth.

Mr Dixon said that the group's profit rose from £363,000 to £441,000.

The interim dividend has been increased from 2.73p to 3.14p gross and Mr Turpin added that the board would not be afraid to increase the final, if profits allowed.

Earlier this week, the group approached the Takeover Panel over the effect on its bid of Palma Textiles Group's increased stake in Mountfort. Palma now holds 12.27 per cent of Mountfort.

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UKO International down by one fifth

The cost of holding substantial stakes of less than 10 per cent in the engineering strike, depressed the first-half profits of UKO International.

In the six months to September 30, 1979 pre-tax profits fell by almost a fifth to £1.4m on sales up £1.7m to £23.4m.

And with £23.4m on the optimistic side remaining depressed in the second half the

directors have held the interim dividend at last year's level of 4.57p.

The group holds a buffer stock of leases amounting to some £10m but director Mr Andrew Blakesley admitted yesterday that this would be kept as a reserve in the second half to prevent a large interest charge from crippling the full year figures.

Export sales, which oscillate between 25 and 40 per cent of the group total, were maintained though the strength of sterling did reduce the profit from this side.

In the United Kingdom, market share in the engineering sector has been maintained despite an influx of cheap imports. In the 6 months the pre-tax profit on this side fell from a previous £1.4m to £1.1m.

Dalgety and GUS hopeful

Dalgety and GUS Hopeful Shareholders in Great Universal Stores can expect an uplift in profits and sales for the six months to September 30, 1979 said chairman Sir Isaac Wolfson at the group's annual general meeting yesterday.

He reported that both profits and sales would show an improvement over the same period last year, even after providing a large increase in the unearned profit provision on additional insurance and hire purchase receivables.

In the six months to September 30, 1979 Great Universal Stores produced pre-tax profits of £36,499m, which was nearly 59.5m up on the previous period, on sales of £678.74m.

Also promising better results in the current year was Dalgety chairman Mr David Donne.

Dalgety, which presently holds 77 per cent of Spillers shares, expects to continue on an upward path through 1979-80.

Mr Donne told shareholders at the group's annual general meeting that Dalgety has no plans to dispose of any major part of Spillers.

More than £22m worth of shares in LASMO changed hands on stock markets. Fund managers Ivory and Sime slumped down their near 1 per cent stake in the group by selling over 100 shares at 310p a share. The move followed LASMO's £78 million takeover offer for Oxi Exploration, which was declared unconditional.

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THE M&G GROUP

Investor's week

Good results make only a modest impact

An odd week: the best people went on about the tightest squeeze on money ever and the bankers and stock market went to bed. But down in the stock market where empty wallets and failure to pay bills is spotted quickly, one or two other people bought shares.

Big name companies outdid each other in reporting cheer; and the FT index rose from 408.6 to 420.7.

So, in a week when nearly everything was said to be going wrong, what went right? As Horace Walpole said: "The wisest prophets make sure of the event first." As a prophet of gloom next year, but not this, I have some explaining to do.

A rally in shares in the shopping days to Christmas is normal. Brokers' clients are in a mood to spend and City institutions play a game called "window dressing". They tend to be full of money around now as insurance premiums are paid; and the authorities could well wait until after Christmas before tapping them for some of it.

The way, then, for institutions to buy a few shares is clear, because they dread going before their trustees with an account

of stewardship with portfolios stuffed with cash.

The week's company news has been a bit of a mixed bag in a golden light. Only engineers like 600 Group and J. H. Fenner struck a sour note and, what was the engineering strike, was it not? BP led the way by producing profits only 10 per cent down on its latest three months it made £1m a day, much of it stock profit.

Johnson Matthey, BPB Industries, Comet, Radiovision and Royal Bank of Scotland could not manage this, but to take just one example the RBS was good for a 42 per cent jump in profits in the year to September.

But the cheer as fair, the rally fragile. Twenty years ago, the BP figures would have set the market alight; on Friday the FT index and BP slipped as the market wondered what would happen to cash-rich oil companies when the oil price falls next year. Oil will probably go from scarcity to glut.

Taking the clutch of companies as a whole, in the months to September money was easy and profits not too hard to earn. Next year will be different.

PW

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Change	Comment
185p	116p	BPB	16p to 161p	Good interim
174p	94p	Comet	10p to 137p	Good figure
32p	24p	Dawson Day	15p to 82p	Big target
234p	118p	Office & Elect	11p to 220p	Spec support
280p	183p	Johnson Matth	14p to 200p	Half time report
133p	56p	Corn Leasure	12p to 60p	Litigation
930p	630p	Hammerson "A"	30p to 670p	Acquisition; cash call
245p	140p	Ladbroke	11p to 142p	Casho fears
805p	210p	Oxi Exploration	142p to 830p	Bid withdrawal
53p	31p	W Ribbons	6p to 32p	Annual setback

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Eple system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 Industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing



The Teddy Bear is still the biggest seller of all soft toys—a £20m market, the researchers say. This year a new idea has been introduced which will be a help to anyone not able to struggle through the Christmas crowds. It is a telephone gift service called Dial-a-Bear. You simply dial 01-628 5518 or 01-628 0898, order the size of bear you would like, dictate a message to go with it and sit back while it is gift wrapped, sealed with a couple of bear paw stickers and sent off.

Most of the bears are jointed and all are made to British safety standards. There is one huge, 28in non-jointed bear called Ernest at £19.97 and a couple of distinctly non-British bears who, one suspects, might never learn to play up and play the game, so as with any mail order service, I'd suggest sticking to something you know, in this case the traditional yellow teddy. By Merrythought and Chad Valley, they come in various sizes and I thought the ones with the nicest expressions were Fred, 11in, at £11.30 and Edward, 14in at £13.95.

The prices include postage and you simply pay by credit card over the phone, or send a cheque to The Teddy Bear Shop, 42-45 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1QY, allowing time for it to be cleared. Dial-a-Bear will send out Christmas orders up to December 13.



Above: Fred the Flour Grader comes apart to make a baking set. His head is a sieve and bowl, body contains measures and sets of spoons. Feet are fitted with Fred biscuit cutters. Homepride baking set £5.75 at branches of W. H. Smith.

For boys of 11 going on 45, one application of the silicone chip will be irreplaceable. Within the next two weeks it is going to revolutionise the model railway. To bomb that may seem an extravagant claim, but not to those who have suffered the frustrations of trying to run two locomotives independently on one conventional track, where each circuit is controlled by enough wires to knit your own international telephone exchange.

With the new Hornby Zero 1 system, up to 16 locomotives can be operated on one layout and four trains can be controlled on the same track at the same time. Only two wires are needed because the control, a one inch module, can be placed in the locomotive and does not affect the track. It can be fitted to almost all OO and HO locomotives.

The modules, £5.28 each, are operated by a Master Controller, £39.94, which sits on the sidings looking as if it has been sired by Cape Canaveral.

out of Star Wars. Above, it can control one train fully and allow three others to be running at constant pre-set speeds. With the addition of up to three Slave Control units, £11.45 each, four trains can be independently controlled at the same time. And just in case you are not a budding Peter Pecker, there's a panic button to prevent collisions.

You can convert existing sets completely to Zero 1, but you can't combine the new system with the traditional wiring. The Master Controller contains all the electronics necessary for the next stage, available next year, which will involve points, light signals and other accessories.

series. Stockists will be branches of Beatties of London in SE13, WC1, N14, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Nottingham and many other Hornby service dealers throughout the country.

Toys are by no means only for children. Why should they have all the fun? I never really understood the craze for those so-called executive toys that you were supposed to keep by your teacher-bound blotter and fiddle with when inspiration was lacking. They were all so mindless, I suspected an ulcer struck long before any constructive thought.

Now there is a toy that does the thinking for you—and male chauvinists can keep their jokes about having a secretary already, thank you. This is a computerized astrologer called Zodiac. It not only tells you your character and shows you how to make your own astrological chart, but gives you a preview for the day and advises on problems.

Of course, it only understands numbers, so you have to study the accompanying booklet fairly closely to find the code for your place, date and time of birth and look up the interpretation of the numbers it flashes back at you. When I tried it, I was told, among other things, that I was "competitive, daring, enterprising, independent" (devilish clever these machines) and "tactless" (who, me?).

The daily previews vary from the general "Girl/boy friend or in-laws are unreasonable today" (who needs a computer?) to the specific, "Bad influences prevail today. Don't gamble." And the answers to your urgent problems are given in descending order of enthusiasm from "Go, go go" to "No go." Computers are stronger on numbers than on vocabulary.

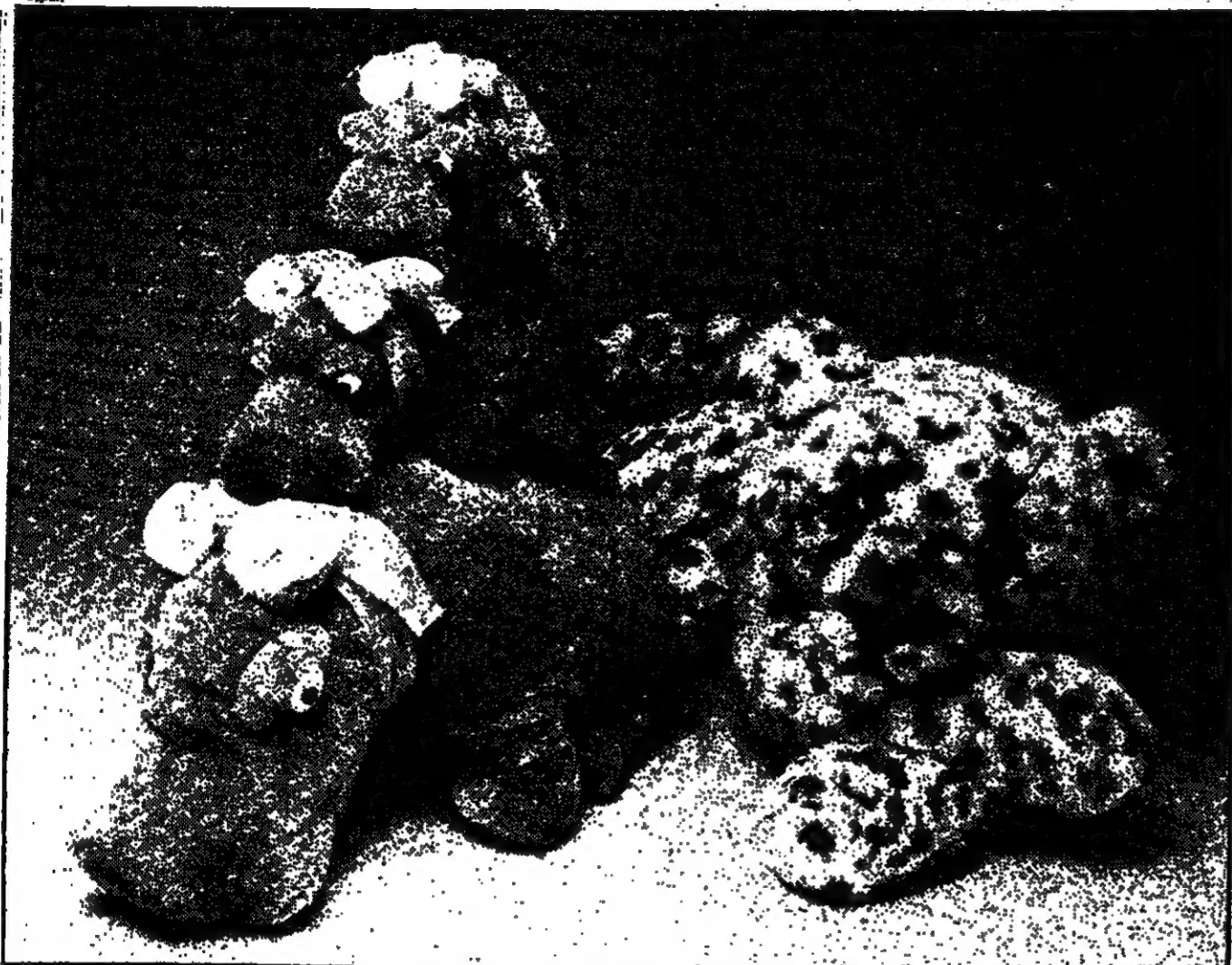
I haven't met anyone who isn't queuing to play with my sample Zodiac and I'm quite sure I wouldn't see it again if I hadn't hidden the instruction book. It is available at Hamleys, Regent Street, London W1, who will send it (50p extra) by mail order up to December 11. It is absurdly expensive at £34.50, but more fun than another I have seen called Astro at £24, and definitely a gift for those who have almost everything. Those who really have everything have their own personal astrologers, too.

If you are looking for creative presents, have you thought of the Y & A at your museum shop has a splendid selection of inexpensive but stimulating ideas, including the popular Pollock cut out theatre at £1.10 to £1.40, four designs of medieval "spined glass windows" in colour and cut, 30p each and Beatrix Potter painting books at 50p.

If dolls are your fancy, there is a jollypeg kit containing peg, fabric, lace, hair and flowers for £1.15 and two simple rag doll kits, printed on sheets of fabric ready to cut out, sew and stuff. Single doll kits, Charlie Chaplin, a colourful duck, bonneted doll, teddy bear and a soldier, each cost 70p, or there is a large sheet of four dolls for £1.30.

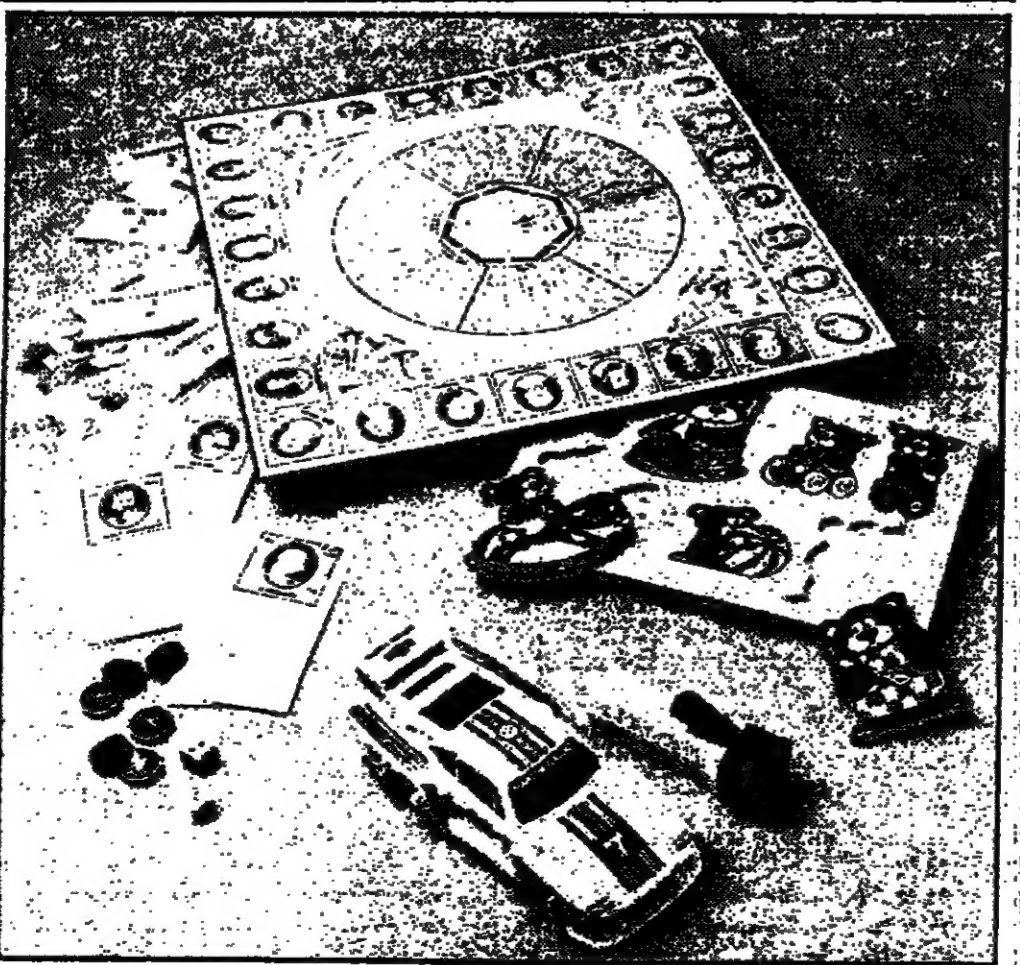
The museum shop also has the cheapest stop fillers I have seen—a collection of three 4 x 9 inch folding cards, each printed with drawings of a doll of a different period (1800-1810, 1830's and 1910) and each with three tabbed costumes and three hats. I remember occupying many holiday hours in my attic playroom drawing, colouring and cutting out paper clothes for paper dolls and then having fashion parades with another designing friend whom I hated cordially for being the better artist. So for 6p a card, I can foresee all sorts of enjoyable enmities filling in the gaps in goodwill at Christmas.

All the other items mentioned are for personal shoppers only, but these cards can be sent anywhere in the country by the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7. Please send postal orders or cheques for 6p per card, plus 8p postage for one or two cards and 10p for three.



Green plush hippos, proving that you don't have to be beautiful to be lovable, 9inch £5.05, 11inch £6.35, 17inch £12.90. Floppy snow leopard of very little brain, £24.50. All from Harrods.

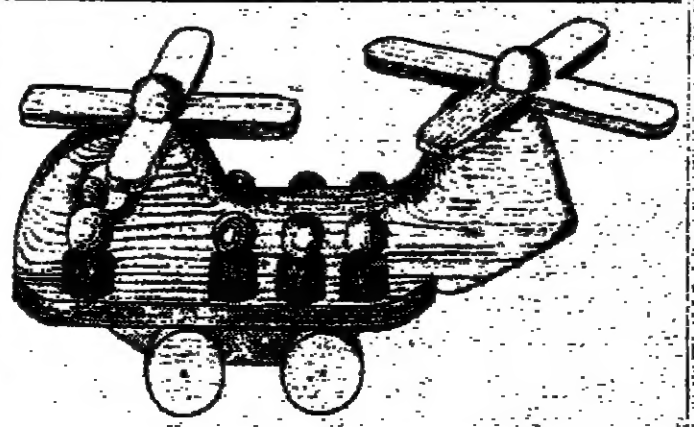
Right: Allegro board game, invented to teach the theory of music without tears. For musical children, 7 to 17, £11.99. First puzzle with big, stand-up pieces, £3.50. Remote control car responds to hand-held clicker, £8.95. All from Hamleys, Regent Street, London, W1.



I met the best public relations officer in the business at the Design Centre in London recently. His name is Ben Godwin and he was crawling about the floor trying to load as many people as possible into a variety of vehicles from breakdown trucks to steam rollers. Ben is 21 years old. Now ferrying people about in the most unlikely forms of transport is an occupational hazard of many PRO's, but where Ben shone was that the vehicles he was playing with were all made by his father. He knew them well, as he is also the family market research department and had already pressed them as playworthy, yet they didn't bore him. He was perfectly content to play with them endlessly while his parents got on with the serious business of promotion and publicity.

Anything that keeps a two-year-old happy so consistently is good news and this beautifully made collection of Rogues toys has the bonus of looking, and feeling good, too. They are all created by former furniture designer Tim Godwin and are satisfyingly chunky shapes, mostly about six to 12 inches long, hand-made in pine and beech with a natural finish. Particular favourites are the air bus with detachable rotors,

pilot, navigator and six passengers, £7.50 and helicopter with pilot and winch, £6.50. Ben played a lot with the baker's van, which has a hinged back door, £4.75 and with the articulated lorry, £4.95. His favourite game was to load as many peg men as possible into whatever space was available, so it may be a good idea to buy extra peg people (20p each) in wallets of one, two, four or six. All these prices include postage and the toys are available to personal shoppers at the Design Centre, 28 Regent Street, London, SW1, or by mail order direct from Rogues Gallery Ltd, Riverside Studio, Staverton Bridge, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6AH.



Drawings by Wendy Jones. Photographs by Trevor Sutton

Children with any sense of style at all know exactly what they want for Christmas this year: silicone chips with every thing. The toy of the moment is undoubtedly a computerized tiny mind guaranteed to drive you out of your wits.

You may be made of stern stuff, but resist the joint blandishments of the television commercials and of your young, who these days learn to leap "special offer" long before they know their tables. If you succumb, be prepared to dig deep. At anything from £13 to £25 chips aren't cheap.

But then, very few toys are. The £5 toy, I was told, this week, is "commemorative" and the average amount spent per toy in the big London stores is £9. So the new electronic toys are not as outrageous as you might think. Still, £12 to £25 is not the sort of sum I would want to spend on anything that isn't going to produce a good pleasure ratio per pound, so I decided to try out four of the most popular computer toys on a panel of experts, brothers Frank, aged 15, and Glen, nine, and sisters Katherine, 14, and Sarah, 10. The prices quoted are those at Woolworths. They may be higher elsewhere.

Simon was America's biggest selling electronic toy last year. It looks like a flying saucer with four coloured panels on top and when you press the button it illuminates the panels in sequence, repeating the pattern exactly, like the nursery game Simon says. It has three variations of game and four levels of skill.

My testers found it amusing for about an hour, after which they found the simpler games boring. They liked the more difficult one and played it later, minutely for about three days. Frank's mother thinks that when you have run out of friends who haven't played it before, Simon will go back in the box and stay there. Verdict: of lasting interest only to very small children, so an expensive buy at £19.95.

Martin is a better deal at the same price. On one hand-held oblong box of tricks, you can play six games on its panel of squares, numbered, not very clearly, 0 to 10. Choices are

noughts and crosses with the computer, opposing you with flashing lights; Ecco, which is a variation of Simon; Magic Square, in which you try to keep the lights in the outer squares only; Secret Number, in which you try to discover the mystery number set by the computer; and BlackJack.

The sixth is a music game. The various squares make a scale and there are tunes to copy from the instructions, or you can make up your own and the computer will play back your composition. My critics found Martin much more entertaining than Simon. It is intended for age seven upwards and Elizabeth, the most musical of the group, couldn't be parted from the music game. Verdict: entertaining for a wide age range and of reasonable lasting value.

Secret Number, the popular code-breaking game, is also made like a pocket calculator. Players can try to solve the three, four or five digit codes set by the computer, or they can set their own for others to tackle.

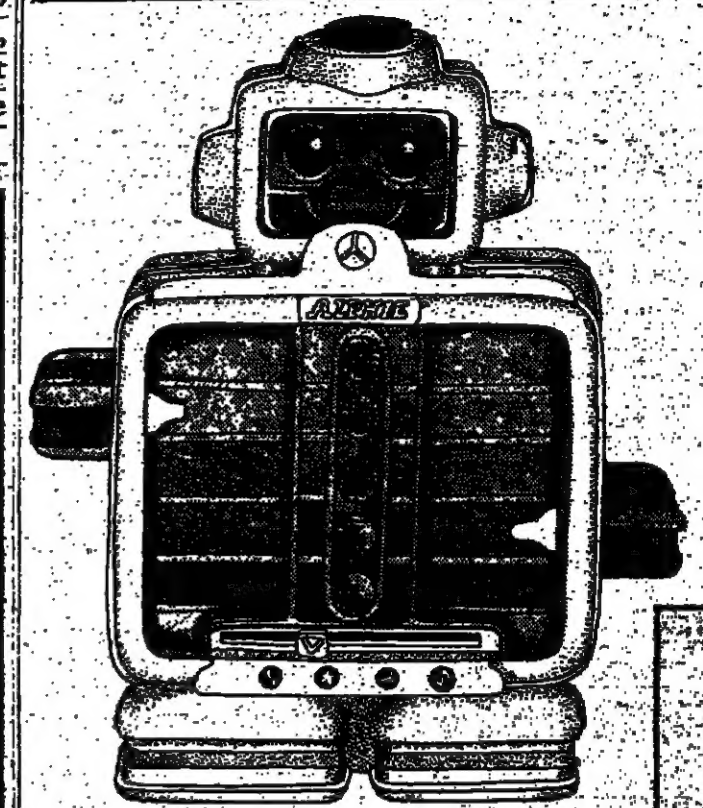
The older children liked this particularly and I include myself among them. I found it completely absorbing and quite

lost track of time, but then I was frightened by a maths lesson when I was nine and ever since have been trying to punch numbers out of some thing that can't wither me with sarcasm in return. Verdict: good play value at £12.95.

Interesting Football is also the size of an average calculator. There are four arrows to indicate the direction you can send your point of light, which represents your ball, and you have to manoeuvre it between a row of defence lights into the goal. The defence is random and constantly changing, so you have to be quite adroit. It sounds simple, but there are two levels of skill and it is in fact a riveting game, even if you are, like me, totally non-athletic and believe that all outdoor sport is simply war sublimated. Indoor sport, too, now I come to think of it.

My masters loved it and played with it for six hours without losing interest. Frank and Glen thought it was the best game yet, so the verdict has to be that if you are in the market for electronic toys, this, at £15.95, gives most play value for money.

I should, however, add one small warning. On the evening I brought these toys home, to test I was expecting an extremely busy dinner. Heavily poetic and musical, and arrived in a flurry of fine phrases. Until after dinner he only had eyes for me, but then his gaze unaccountably beamed in on the toys as if programmed by an alien force. He spent the rest of the evening playing football with himself and every now and then uttering glances of "I've scored." Not with me, he didn't.



Owl target lights up when electronic pistol scores a bullseye, £5.95. Robot Alphonse plays four different games with pre-school children, sets questions and gives the answers, £28.50. Grand Prix Pinball is fun for all the family, £8.95. All from Harrods.



